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Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** paid floral tribute to a portrait of Perarignar Anna kept near his statue on the occasion of his 114th birth anniversary at Nelpettai, Madurai on 15.09.2022.

‘Teachers bounteously bestow the wealth of education on students’

Message of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** for Teachers Day on 04.09.2022.

The great order of Teachers who remove the darkness of ignorance by lighting up knowledge: to you all I extend my hearty Teacher’s Day greetings.

‘Deiva Pulavar’ Thiruvalluvar defines a good country as ‘Thalla Vilaiyulum thakkaarum thaazhvilaa selvarum servadhu naadu’. The word ‘thakkaar’ in the couplet, is interpreted by commentators as persons of abiding righteous conduct. But I wish to equate that word to ‘Teacher’ because teachers are responsible persons who don’t deviate from their code of life and teach the younger generation also how to lead a righteous life.

It is education that makes men wise and kindles their genius; in fact it is education that makes human beings of men. Teachers bounteously vouchsafe the wealth of education that cannot be destroyed by time.

The Government of Tamil Nadu allotted Rs. 36,895.89 crore to the Department of School Education in the 2022-2023 Budget for providing quality education to all children, to admit all the children of school-going age in schools, to help such children to continue their education without dropping out of school, to ensure that children clear the learning indices meant for their age and to give excellent training to teachers for developing their skills.

To compensate for the learning loss sustained by students due to the Corona pandemic, the Government is implementing the scheme ‘Illam Thedi Kalvi’ with 2 lakh volunteers, from October 2021 for students from first to eighth standard near the place of their residence itself. So far, Rs. 163 crore have been spent on this scheme. Moreover, a scheme ‘Naan Mudhalvan’ has been introduced for students of 9th to 12th standard to benefit them in higher education and job opportunities.

Apart from this, an ‘Ennum Ezhuthum’ Movement was started in 2021-2022 with the goal of developing skills in all children studying in 1st to 3rd classes, in reading, writing and in basic mathematics by the year 2025. Rs. 66.70 crore has been allotted for various activities.

By way of encouraging children’s enthusiasm in writing, steps are being taken to select 3 best persons amidst writers below 18 years of age, every year and present them Rs. 25,000 in cash, a shield and ‘Kavimani Virudhu’ with a certificate.

The Government is taking steps to hold a skill assessment examination in the Tamil language for school students, select 1500 students every year and provide a cash incentive.

The ‘Muthamizharignar Kalaignar Memorial Library’ is coming up in Madurai so as to benefit different sections of society like educationists, research scholars, writers and students preparing for different competitive examinations.

Teacher’s Day celebration is only a symbol of the respect and admiration shown by the Government and people to the teaching community that bears the heavy responsibility of shaping the younger generation, the future assets of the country, into excellent citizens.

I extend my hearty greetings to you for being lauded as excellent teachers by developing your skills through constant work and the experience gained in classrooms.

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Solalvallan Sorvilan Anjaan avanai
Igalvellal yaarkkum aridhu - *Kural: 647*

Nobody can oppose and defeat one who is gifted with the power of speech, suffers from no faintness of spirit and has a fearless heart.

- From Kalaignar's commentary on the Kural.

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First Wrapper

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin,** inaugurated the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme for Government school children from Class 1 to 5, at the Adhimoolam Corporation Primary School, Madurai and happily fed breakfast to the children himself on 15.09.2022.

Hon'ble Chief Minister enthuses over Breakfast Scheme for school children

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inaugurated the breakfast scheme for students from class 1 to 5 of the Adhimoolam Corporation Primary School in Madurai, on 15.09.2022.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** inaugurated the Breakfast Scheme for Government school students at Madurai on 15.09.2022.

As school-going children in urban and rural areas depart for schools in the morning itself, most of them do not take breakfast, according to information received by the Government. Apart from the distance of the school from their houses, the situation in the family is also the reason for this. Taking this into consideration, the Government conceived of the breakfast scheme. In the first phase, the scheme will be started in some Corporations, Municipalities and remote villages. The Hon'ble Chief Minister made the announcement regarding the launch of the breakfast scheme on 07.05.2022, under Rule 110 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, to mark the one year completion of his Government.

"Though I have signed a number of files for Government welfare schemes after I had

assumed office, I got immense satisfaction only after signing the file for the breakfast scheme in primary schools. The breakfast scheme will have a major impact on enrollment of children at the primary school level and will make for a great change in the life of children," the Hon'ble Chief Minister said while releasing the Government Order for the scheme.

The pioneering scheme in the country was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at Adhimoolam Corporation Primary School in Madurai on September 15 . He also ate breakfast along with the children.

The Government has allotted Rs. 33.56 crore to facilitate the extension of the Scheme to all the 38 Districts. Benefiting from the scheme are 43,681 children in 417 Corporation schools, 17,427 children in 163 Municipality schools, 42,826 children in 728 Taluk and Gram Panchayat schools and 10,161 students in schools in hills. Totally, 1,14,095 students in 1,545 schools will be benefitted.

The scheme is implemented mainly to free students from hunger while attending school, to improve their nutrition, to prevent malnutrition, to increase the attendance of students in schools and to reduce the burden of women.

The scheme will be monitored by supervising committees consisting of officials from the Departments of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Rural Development, Municipal Administration, School Education Department, Integrated Child Development Services and Food Protection Department and the Corporation of Women Development, as well as school level monitoring groups.

Before inaugurating the breakfast scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister felicitated social worker Tmt. Kamalathal of Vadivelampalayam in Coimbatore, who has been selling idlies at one rupee for the past 30 years. The Chief Minister offered her a ponnadai. The Chief Minister also released a book 'Education revolution in the last 100 years' to mark the centenary of food schemes in schools in the last 100 years. The book was published by the Tamilarasu Publications. Tmt.Kamalathal received the first copy. The Hon'ble Chief Minister flagged off the van carrying breakfast to various schools from the common kitchen at Nelpettai in Madurai. Earlier the Hon'ble Chief Minister inspected the common kitchen.

Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at this function

"I would like to extend my warm greetings to all of you.

Calling this a golden day would be apt. The Breakfast scheme is an initiative which is giving food to hungry stomach, water to parched throats, a ray of hope for those who are helpless, a consolation for the ones who are lovely and so on, thus it's a scheme filled with compassion.

The breakfast scheme for students from first to fifth standard of Government primary

schools in the State is like providing food for hungry souls, water to thirsty people, showing the way to those without any succour and bringing solace to the hapless.

We have made provisions to provide breakfast to children who come to school hungry as they could not eat breakfast at home. This year the State has achieved record paddy and grain production. As nobody should go hungry, quality food is being moved from the common kitchen in Nelpettai to Government primary schools.

The Adhimoolam (root cause) of the problems faced by the oppressed and marginalized people in the society must be identified and suitable remedies be provided. As a part of this, we have launched the breakfast scheme for primary school children.

We are all the brothers of Arignar Anna. He was the first to propagate the idea that those who are hungry should be given food. Before inspecting the common kitchen in Nelpettai, I garlanded the statue of Arignar Anna. I am extremely happy to inaugurate the scheme.

As told by the Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare Tmt. Geetha Jeevan, exactly 102 years ago on the same date, September 16, one of the leaders of the Justice party, Sir Pitty Thiagarayar, passed a resolution in the Chennai Corporation, to introduce midday meal scheme for children. After a century, the breakfast scheme has been launched.

The scheme, which was started in Thousand Lights, has attained the next dimension now as breakfast scheme in the City of Madurai which never goes to sleep!

The breakfast scheme was in vogue in all the States in the US and it was implemented by the US Department of Agriculture. Similarly, the scheme was introduced in the European nations, particularly in France, three years ago.

Research shows that providing breakfast in schools improves the learning capacity of the students and increases their attendance. Moreover, after the COVID pandemic, the demand for the breakfast increased.

I could see the happiness on the faces of the children while they took their breakfast. I have no words to express my happiness.

The Dravidian movement was established to ensure that there are no impediments of any sort to children belonging to the poor and the suppressed communities going to school. This is how the seeds of the great movement of the century were sown. The doctrine of self-respect and social justice was formulated. Communal reservation was brought in as Thanthai Periyar, Perarignar Anna and Muthamizharignar Kalaignar thought neither poverty nor caste should be a hindrance to education.

I am overwhelmed to think that I, a follower of their path, am in a position to fulfill their dreams.

We are implementing the scheme to eradicate hunger from the poor and consider the responsibility of the power given to us as similar to Manimekalai's 'Akshayapatram'. We believe that the children of Tamil Nadu should not starve at any cost. That is why we have started the scheme.

Iyothee Thass Pandithar was the first to express the noble intention of providing food to school children along with education. In the early 1900, he sowed the seed for the idea of providing midday meals in the Karnal Olcott Memorial schools in Chennai region and Sir Pitty Thiagarayar of the Justice Party, the parent organization of the DMK, started the scheme when he was Mayor of the Madras Corporation.

A few months before the country's independence, the scheme was discontinued by the British Government citing financial stringency. In 1955, the scheme was re-introduced by Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, when he was the Chief Minister of the State. At that time Thiru. N.D.Sundaravadivelu, an ardent follower of Thanthai Periyar, was the Director of Education who implemented the scheme, despite opposition from some officials.

To enhance the scheme in 1971, the then Chief Minister Muthamizharignar Kalaignar took charge of the Nutritional Meals Programme. He made it a grand movement by providing nutrition to children and pregnant mothers. He offered baby bread to all children (upto 3 years). In 1975, he launched, fully with State Government finances, the Integrated Nutritional Programme, across the State.

Makkal Thilagam M.G.R, as Chief Minister, took great efforts to expand it by setting up more centres and allotted more funds. In 1989, Muthamizharignar Kalaignar came to power. During that time a systematic campaign was launched that the midday meal scheme would be abandoned. But after coming to power, Kalaignar introduced the true midday meal. In 1989, he introduced one egg a week in the midday meal, which was increased to 2 eggs a week.

In 2007, 3 eggs were introduced in the meal programme. He also added chickpeas, green gram, and boiled potatoes. In 2010, he extended eggs for five days a week, except Saturdays and Sundays and provided bananas to those who do not consume eggs. Former Chief Minister

Jayalalithaa Ammaiyar ordered provision of variety rice during her regime.

When I attended a programme at a school in Chennai, I asked a few children whether they had morning breakfast. They replied in the negative. Later, when I consulted the authorities, they said that many children came to school skipping breakfast. I thought that no child should attend classes with a hungry stomach. Immediately I ordered the breakfast scheme. In the first phase of the programme, 1.14 lakh children from 1,545 schools will benefit at a cost of Rs. 12.75 per day/per child. I spoke of 'cost' in administrative language. But it is not a cost. It is the duty of the Government. We will progressively expand the project and take all steps expeditiously for its implementation to the fullest. Such schemes should not be considered as freebies, charity or privilege. This is the bounden duty and responsibility of the Government.

Students learn comfortably once hunger is satiated. They grasp things easily and attend school with enthusiasm. There will be regular attendance in schools. Education ratio in Tamil Nadu is higher. The educational standard of youth of Tamil Nadu will automatically increase. So, I don't consider the fund allotted for the scheme as expenditure. Perhaps, the value of the food may be Rs. 12 per child. But, when a child who benefits by the scheme reaches top positions later in life, the gain for society is immeasurable. As far as I am concerned, the amount spent for education, medicine and eradicating hunger is beyond criticism.

I consider such schemes as the human face of the Government. When you evaluate the performance of a Government, you should take these schemes into consideration.

On this occasion, I would like to place a demand to the Government officials, teachers, and workers. Please implement the scheme with a motherly touch. You must implement the scheme as if you are feeding your own children.

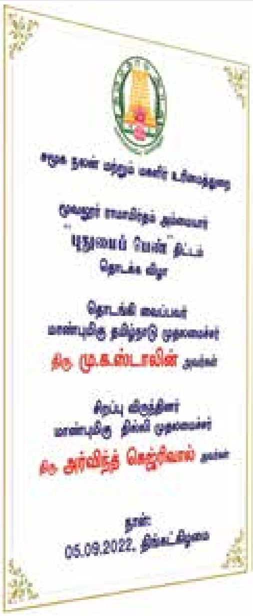
Dear students, we are providing food both in the morning and afternoon. Do not worry about anything. We got the education as our right and we got that right after many agitations. Knowledge is the only asset which cannot be stolen by anybody. Try to accumulate that wealth as much as possible. The present Government will take care of your other worries. You concentrate on your studies.

"Is it necessary to study? Are there not many persons who attained positions in society without education? Is it necessary to study one particular subject? Cannot we study something else?" Consider people who raise such questions as fools.

You should all study and become part of the knowledge society. At any cost do not move away from education. I won't allow you to move away from education. School education, higher education, graduation and research studies. You should advance in all fields. Only if you advance, society will advance. The D.M.K. Government functions to make this advancement possible.

According to the Manimekalai epic, 'Pasiyum, Piniyum, Pagaiyum Neengi, Vasium, Valanum Surakka Vaazhga'. We will establish such a State. I am ready to make any sacrifice to remove hunger among children and the poverty in society.

Once again, I thank all of you for attending this function."



Hon’ble Chief Minister rings in ‘Pudhumai Penn’ Scheme to enable poor girl students go to college

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** inaugurated the ‘Pudhumai Penn’ Scheme at Bharathi Women’s College, Chennai on 05.09.2022.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin launched the ‘Pudhumai Penn’ scheme that provides a monthly assistance of Rs. 1,000 for girl students in higher education who have completed their studies in Government schools from 6th to 12th standards. The inauguration took place at an event in the Bharathi Women’s college, Chennai on 05.09.2022, in the presence of the special invitee Hon’ble Chief Minister of Delhi Thiru. Arvind Kejriwal. The scheme, under the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance scheme, is implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment.

The Government of Tamil Nadu changed the name of the Department of Social Welfare and Nutritious Meals Scheme into Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department for providing women their rightful place in the development of the State in all respects. The Government is announcing and implementing many welfare schemes for protecting the interests of women, children, senior citizens and transgenders.

It has created the ‘Pudhumai Penn’ scheme by way of nourishing women’s education and ensuring their higher education so that women can be the pillars of tomorrow’s Thamizhagam by turning them into scientists, doctors, engineers, persons of creativity, educationists who produce good citizens, and part of the work force of academics and technologists.

The Government feels that by providing women higher education through this scheme, gender equality, prevention of child marriage, giving economic assistance to women unable to

prosecute higher education on account of family condition and poverty, reduction of the percentage of dropouts in girls' education, encouraging women to take to higher education of their choice, inducing women to participate in all sectors by improving their skills through higher education, increasing job opportunities for them through the higher education assurance scheme and ensuring their socio-economic protection, are possible. In turn, these developments will pave the way for an enlightened society.

Eligibility for this scheme is either completion of education in Government schools from 6th to 12th standards and taking up higher education in Tamil Nadu or students of private schools from 6th to 8th standards under the Right to Education scheme and in Government schools from 9th to 12th standards. This scheme is applicable only for first time entrants to higher education after studying in 8th or 10th or 12th standard.

Under the 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme, the assistance will be given to girl students who take to certificate courses (Diploma/ ITI/ D.T.Ed), Bachelor Degree courses (B.A., B.Sc., B.Com., B.B.A., B.C.A., and all arts & Science, Fine Arts courses), Technical courses (B.E., B.Tech., M.B.B.S., B.D.S., B.Sc. (Agri), B.V.Sc., B.Fsc., B.L., etc.,), Para medical courses (Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Lab Technology, Physiotherapy etc.,) and the like.

The girl students will get the benefit of the scheme all through the years of their courses.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi distributed 'Pudhumai Penn' kits containing a guidance book for job opportunities and a book on finance education, and a debit card to 2,500 students as a token for such distribution to 67,000 students in the first phase.

This 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme is implemented as a replica of the women's rights policy that all women should get the permanent asset of education and to light up their lives and to make them self-sufficient with a strong economy.

The inaugural speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

"I extend my affectionate greetings to all of you.

Today, we have Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi Thiru. Arvind Kejriwal, as the special invitee for the launch of three important and revolutionary schemes. He is not just the Chief Minister of Delhi. He is a FIGHTER.

He left his I.R.S. job and entered public life to serve the people. With his hard work, he has become the Chief Minister of Delhi. Recently, he has made his party win in Punjab also. He is always very active. He is closely watched by everyone in the Country.

We are happy that he is among us today in Tamil Nadu. It is a happy moment for Bharathi Women's College, that such a celebrated leader has come to your college.

When I visited Delhi this year on 1st April, I had the opportunity to see the Government Schools there. Tamil Nadu School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh also was with me.

Just as everything else in the country is getting modernized, our classrooms also need to be modern and attractive to our children. We have planned to create such schools in Tamil Nadu and requested Hon'ble Arvind Kejriwal to come as a guest for the launch. Accepting my invitation, he is here today. On behalf of all of you, I welcome him.

Ye! The Lioness, known for your upright gait, fearless look and lofty intelligence,

> **"Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Higher Education Assurance Scheme has been inaugurated today. This scheme is initiated on behalf of the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, to increase their enrolment in higher education. This is a magnificent scheme, providing Rs. 1,000 per month for every girl student joining higher education after completing education in Government Schools from 6th to 12th standard"**

I extend my affectionate greetings to all of you who have joined in the 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme of Government of Tamil Nadu.

Your scholarship fee has been deposited to your bank account. Has it or has it not? Tell me. Those who have received the amount, please raise your hands. Thank you! Thank you!

I begin my speech with the pleasant information that you would have received the SMS about it.

On this good day when schemes for school and college education in Tamil Nadu are to come in a stream, I wish to announce another pleasant news at the beginning itself.

My attention was drawn to some dilapidated buildings in your Bharathi Women's college which has rendered educational service for more than 76 years. I understood your needs and I have ordered construction of a three-storey building with a ground floor, consisting of 33 classrooms, 7 laboratories, 2 libraries and 3 rooms for teachers, at a cost of Rs. 25 crore. The works will be completed shortly and the building will certainly come up for your use.

This day is observed in memory of the former President of India Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and for teachers who open our eyes of wisdom. Today is the birth anniversary of 'Kappalottiya Thamizhan', 'Sekkizhutha Chemmal' and 'Veeramigu' V.O. Chidambaranar who sacrificed his health and wealth and all things for the freedom of India. This day has many such greatness to its credit.

So, the Tamil Nadu Government's very important and gem-like schemes are being inaugurated on this good day.

❖ Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Higher Education Assurance Scheme has been inaugurated today. This scheme is initiated on behalf of the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, to increase their enrolment in higher education. This is a magnificent scheme, providing Rs. 1,000 per month for every girl student joining higher education after completing education in Government schools from 6th to 12th standard.

❖ 15 model schools and 26 schools of excellence have been inaugurated today.

❖ This is a great, happy day in my life. It is a memorable day.

The stream of education should be available to all without any discrimination or difference like poor-rich, high-low, forward-oppressed castes and village-town. On that basis the Justice Party was born 100 years ago. This is the basic tenet of the Dravidian Movement.

There was a time when the rich belonging to high caste alone could get education; that too only the males. In those days, it was the Justice Party that created reservations and opened schools also.

Thanthai Periyar protected social justice politically; Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Perarignar Anna and our Muthamizharignar protected it through governance. Our Dravidian Model Government follows their footsteps.

If thousands of girls are studying in this college today, it is due to the Dravidian Movement; the beneficial result of the agitations conducted for women's rights by the Dravidian Movement.

I feel it will be apt to recall the self-respect conference held at Chengalpattu in 1929. In that conference many revolutionary resolutions like the right to property and work for women, the right to re-marriage and the right to choose a life partner were passed.

As an extension of it, in 1989 after 60 years had passed by after that conference – it was our Thamizhina Thalaivar Kalaignar who gave legal cover to women's right in property equally and got it passed unanimously.

Not only men but women too can study! If a further remark is to be made, it is the Dravidian Movement that created a situation for women to study at any cost.

We are implementing in a larger measure schemes connected with education, social justice and the rights for women. Through the priority schemes implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu in higher and school education and in the social welfare and women's rights sphere, the development of Tamil Nadu is taking a great leap forward.

- ❖ Illam Thedi Kalvi
- ❖ Naan Mudhalvan
- ❖ As a part of it 'Kalloori Kanavu'

and the 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme inaugurated today – all these schemes are our Government's symbols.

Girls who come to school for studies are hesitant to come to college and there is a hurdle. We have created this 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme to smash that hurdle.

No parent should suffer the pang that 'there is no money to educate'. The facility to travel in buses free of charge has been given to women today. This has given them socio-economic freedom. They say they are able to save Rs. 600 to Rs.1,200 in their expenditure due to the free travel. I will not speak here about the loss in crores sustained by the Government on this account. Our goal is about the lakhs of women who get elevated by this. In that respect, it is also an investment.

With that ideal, we have created this 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme. Its name is Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Higher Education Assurance Scheme. Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar was a lioness in the Dravidian Movement.

She raised her voice against the suppression of women's rights. She fought for the girls who were denied education. She opened the doors of women's rights that were stifled on account of the superstition of those days. One hundred years ago, she enacted a great revolution jointly with Thanthai Periyar.

In the year 1938, she joined the march, organized as an agitation for the protection of Tamil and walked the entire distance – from Tiruchi to Chennai. When Perarignar Anna decided to give awards to the heroes of the Dravidian Movement, the first recipient was Moovalur Ammaiyar. This scheme has been inaugurated today in the name of such a great Ammaiyar. Minister Geetha Jeevan has implemented this scheme excellently exactly for the purpose I had thought of. I applaud her heartily.

I described her as a lioness when I spoke appreciating her at Thoothukudi. She has dedicated herself totally for women's development. Government does not consider distribution of Rs.1000 to girl students as gratis; it feels such distribution is its duty.

Thalaivar Kalaignar cited an example to explain what social justice is. The shepherd driving the goats would carry one goat on his shoulder. That goat may be unable to walk or would have sustained an injury in the leg. That is social justice, he said. Carrying the goat on the shoulder is not a concession shown to the goat; that is the duty of the shepherd. Since such a duty devolves on the Dravidian Model Government of Tamil Nadu, we are preparing schemes like these.

The girl who would stop studies with school, enters college as she gets Rs.1,000. This promotes educational development in Tamil Nadu; the number of educated persons will increase; intelligence will blossom; more talented persons will emerge; gender equality will come about; child marriage will be reduced; women will gain power; each woman will stand on her own legs; she will not expect mercy from others; she need not. They need not tolerate any atrocity or disgrace and become submissive.

We can go on narrating like this. This is the central theme of our governance. The inner meaning of 'development to all' is 'all things for all people'. Keeping that in mind, the 'Pudhumai penn' scheme has been started.

Model schools and schools of excellence have also been started for the same purpose. Are smart classes for private schools only? We are determined to create them in Government schools also. There is no distinction in education between the rich and those who are not rich. Our aim is to provide a uniform education to all.

In the past one year, the school education Department has made many great achievements. I am really proud of it.

- Illam Thedi Kalvi;
- Naan Mudhalvan;
- School Management Committees;
- App to identify non-school going children;

> **“ This is the central theme of our governance. The inner meaning of ‘development to all’ is ‘all things for all people’. Keeping that in mind, the ‘Pudhumai penn’ scheme has been started. ”**

❖ Special fund for children requiring special attention;

❖ ‘Ennum Ezhuthum’ Movement for children in 1st to 3rd standard;

❖ Books with homework sheets;

❖ Rapid quiz competitions for students of 9th to 12th standard;

❖ Suggestion box named Student’s mind;

❖ Library in every school;

❖ Special training to mathematics teachers;

❖ High-tech laboratories;

❖ CCTV camera in class room;

❖ Transparent interaction with teacher;

❖ Muthamizharignar translation scheme;

❖ Literature for the young ones;

❖ Learn and Write scheme for the old;

❖ Distribution of handbook with information regarding education;

❖ High-level digital App named ‘Min Aasiriyar’ distributed;

❖ Now model schools and schools of excellence.

In the first phase 25 Municipal Corporation and Government schools will be upgraded as schools of excellence at a cost of Rs.171 crore. Buildings of these schools will be modernized. Along with learning, students will be encouraged to develop skills in spheres like art, literature, music, dance, science practicals and sports. That is, the multi-level talent of students will be brought out.

This will be extended to all Districts one after the other. In the next four years, a smart class room will be created in every school in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs.150 crore.

Through the school development scheme named after Perasiriyar Anbazhaganar, infrastructure facilities in schools are to be upgraded at a cost of Rs.7,500 crore. Tamil Nadu has been ranked second in the list of best States evaluated on the indices of creation of school facility, equality, infrastructure and learning outcomes. Can there be a better appreciation for Minister Anbil Mahesh than this? I have only mentioned the names of the schemes implemented by the School Education Department. It will take several hours to explain the benefits of these schemes.

Through these schemes, the future of the children of Tamil Nadu will be bright. The future will certainly prove this.

All the schemes of Government of Tamil Nadu are foresighted. We pay utmost attention to preparing the schemes. Even as a sculptor chisels a statue carefully, the Dravidian Model Government of Tamil Nadu is functioning with utmost care.

My wish is that the younger generation should make use of this opportunity. Study well; don’t stop with a Degree; take to research on some subject; don’t stop with the completion of a Degree; join a suitable job; economic freedom is very important for women; make good use of suitable job opportunities. Many women, smart during the academic years remain confined within the house after their marriage. Educational wisdom, artistic talent and innate skill are assets that cannot be destroyed by

anyone. I request you to make use of them throughout your life.

Inaugurating the 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme, I stand before you with the sense of duty of a parent. The beautiful and elegant bag given to you in connection with this 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme contains a handbook giving guidance in a detailed manner, on the subject you can choose in higher education and where to study. It will be greatly helpful to you. The other handbook gives guidance on how to handle the Rs.1,000 given to you. The monthly monetary assistance will be deposited in your bank account. You should use this amount in a proper way. With your parents advice, it should be used only for your educational development.

I repeat – not only as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu but as one who stands in the position of your father, I say - We are here to ensure your growth, this Government is there to see to it. We will bring in countless schemes like 'Pudhumai penn'.

Once again, I thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi Thiru. Arvind Kejriwal for honouring our invitation and attending this function, and take leave of you."

'Tamil Nadu was special for Mahatma Gandhi'

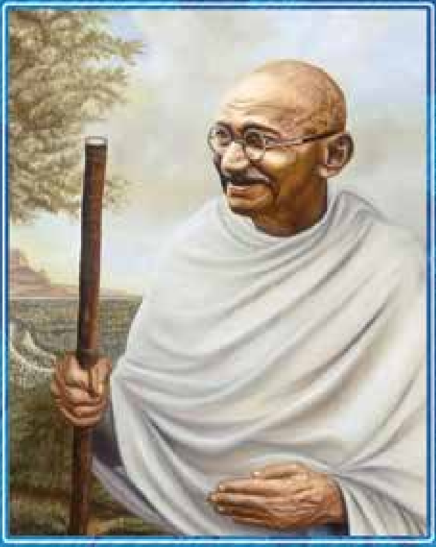
October 02: Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi Adigal

"As for Uthamar Gandhi Adigal, though all States sing his praise, conduct functions to narrate his greatness and adore his memory, Tamil Nadu has a special right and honour to applaud and speak about his special qualities.

This is because, even before he raised the banner of freedom for India, he conducted a massive agitation in South Africa to protect the people from apartheid. During that agitation, I wish to inform with great pride, that one of the national races of India which he greatly valued and praised was the Tamil race.

To make a particular mention, on his return from South Africa, Uthamar Gandhi Adigal wished to visit Tamil Nadu, that too, the place where Thillaiyadi Valliammal was born in Thanjavur District, rather than any other place in India. With that sentiment, he came to that place and visited the places where Thillaiyadi Valliammal's ancestors lived.

Even in 1909, that is 90 years ago, Uthamar Gandhi Adigal laid the foundation for Tamil language to become one of India's official languages. He felt that for implementing the call that he raised in South Africa, not only the parties in Tamil Nadu that had love and affection for the Tamil language but all those who believed in total integration of India - people outside Chennai Presidency, that is Tamil Nadu, should willingly learn the Tamil language to achieve total integrity in India.



-Speech of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar at Annal Gandhi Adigal's 131st birth anniversary function on 02.10.1999.

Pioneering step in school education for Tamil Nadu

In the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi Thiru. Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated 26 schools of excellence and 15 model schools on 05.09.2022.

In the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Thiru. Arvind Kejriwal, inaugurated 26 schools of excellence and 15 model schools, on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, at a function held in Bharathi Women's College, Chennai, on 05.09.2022.

The schools of excellence will impart education in its totality based on the syllabus and beyond it, while the model schools will provide opportunities to students of Government schools to excel in education, performing arts and sports.

School of Excellence

One of the basic requirements for the students to excel in education and skills is the availability of facilities, qualified teachers and the school heads in their respective schools. To fix the goals that students should achieve and the direction they should proceed, to make available the facilities that will help the students develop their skills, to provide a learning-teaching experience that is based on bonds between the students and teachers, these are the main factors responsible for the advancement of students.

To achieve this target, apart from school syllabus, other aspects such as integrated library, art and culture are required in schools. By giving various kinds of training to teachers directly and through the internet, students will benefit to a great extent in future.

To improve the standard of education among school students, the following schools have been selected for School of Excellence in the first phase: Thiruvallur District –Poonamallee, Kamaraj Nagar; Chennai District – T.Nagar, Ashok Nagar; Kancheepuram District – Periya Kancheepuram; Chengalpattu District – Kattankulathur, Nandivaram; Ranipet District – Arcot; Vellore District – Vellore; Tirupattur District – Nattrampalli, Vaniyambadi; Dharmapuri District – Dharmapuri; Villupuram District – Villupuram; Salem District- Salem, Gugai; Erode District- Erode; Nilgiris

District – Gudalur; Coimbatore District – Coimbatore; Dindigul District – Palani; Karur District –Kulithalai; Tiruchirappalli District – Tiruchirappalli; Cuddalore District – Cuddalore; Nagapattinam District – Nagapattinam; Thanjavur District – Pattukkottai; Sivagangai District – Thirupuvanam; Madurai District - Madurai South; Thoothukudi District – Kovilpatti; Tirunelveli District - Tirunelveli; Kanniyakumari District – Agastheeswaram; Krishnagiri District – Krishnagiri and Tiruppur District – Tiruppur.

These Schools of Excellence will act as the base for students to improve their skills, involve actively in sports, create more opportunities for them both inside and outside the school campuses and widen the horizon of education for both students and teachers.

Modern Classrooms

The infrastructure of these schools will be strengthened and modern classrooms will be established to enable the students realize their goals. To gauge the improvement in educational skills attained by the students, assessment will be made at periodic intervals and at the end of the year through skill classes, known as smart classes. For this, high tech laboratories with internet facilities will be set up in these schools.

In the School of Excellence, students from class 6 will be provided guides and there will be summer camps where experts give talks. These facilities will improve students' skills and help them realize the benefits of education.

As there is a close relation between the teachers' skills and students' development, teachers will be encouraged to attend training classes to improve their talents. Such classes will be handled by technical experts in various fields, who will interact with teachers. Arrangements will be made for the teachers to visit important institutions in the country.

In these schools, to provide education in its totality, additional classrooms will be set up; a big auditorium to stage plays, music and art shows will be provided; teachers will be recruited to train the students in art and culture, physical education teachers for exercise training and librarians will be appointed through school management councils.

The reading habit among students will be enhanced through a modern library with dedicated librarians. Students interested in sports will be trained through technically qualified trainers. The students' mental and physical health will be taken care of. Competitions will be conducted in various arts, stage plays and music to improve the students'

self-confidence. Training will also be given to students to compete with the virtual digital world. Gradually more schools in the Districts will be covered by the scheme.

Model Schools

The State Government has created model schools in the State to encourage students who excel in education, arts and in other sports and to ensure their admission in the best technical colleges through competitive examinations. In the current academic year, 15 Government Model schools will be started in Chennai, Madurai, Tirupattur, the Nilgiris, Tiruvarur, Sivagangai, Erode, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Nagapattinam and Ranipet.

The Government's reservation policy will be followed in these model schools. The admission in these schools is based on the students' talent in education, arts and sports, apart from their all-round proficiency. Opportunities will be provided to students to make use of the special education management, designed by the educational experts. Other skills of the students of the model school will be fine tuned.

Model schools will give an opportunity to students to access guidance on choosing their career based on their skills and psychological orientation.

Following this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K.Stalin, took the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi Thiru.Arvind Kejriwal to the Anna Centenary Library in Kotturpuram. The Chief Ministers witnessed the 'Kadal Bootham' show, presented by Dr. Velu Saravanan, in the children's wing of the library on the first floor. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi also inspected the engineering, agriculture and other technical books on the sixth floor and the palm leaf manuscripts on the seventh floor.

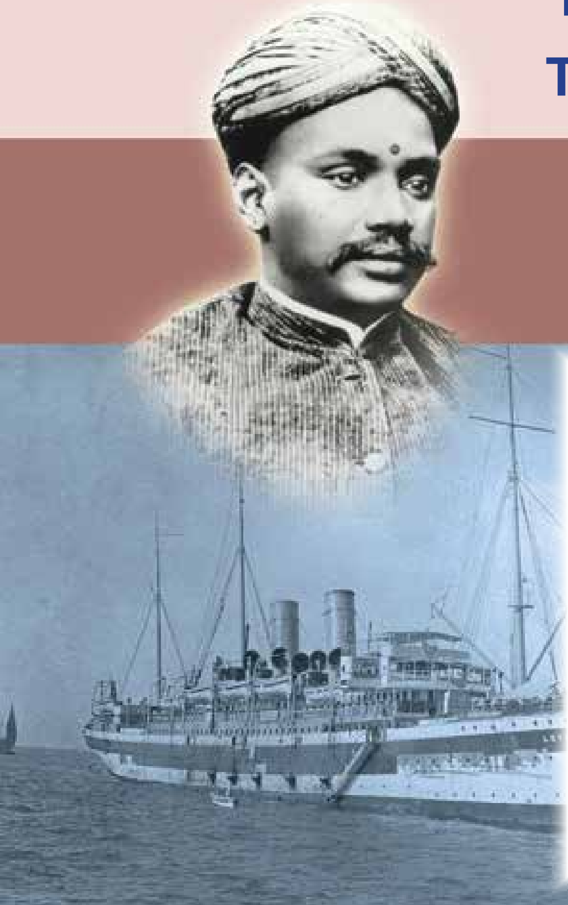
The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi was explained about the working of model schools in Tamil Nadu and 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' at the eighth floor of the library. A short film about the model schools in Tamil Nadu, scheme details of 'Illam Thedi Kalvi, construction of Kalaignar's memorial library at Madurai was also screened to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi at the library.

Later, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi interacted with students of Model schools at Ariyalur, Perambalur, Tiruchirappalli, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Kallakurichi, Salem, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Chennai, and gave prizes to them. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu handed over to his Delhi counterpart, a coffee table book illustrating the 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme through photos.

Later, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi inspected various sections of the Anna Centenary Library and wrote in the library record book: "It is a pleasure to visit this library. Such huge collection of books and manuscripts so well managed. It is not just Tamil Nadu's pride but India's pride. Keep it up".

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** paid floral tribute to a portrait of 'Kappalottiya Thamizhan' V.O. Chidambaranar, kept near his statue at the Chennai Port Authority complex on Rajaji Salai, Chennai on 05.09.2022, in connection with his birth anniversary.

'Let us follow Kappalottiya Thamizhan's path of sacrifice'



On the birth anniversary of 'Chekkizhutha Chemmal' V.O. Chidambaranar who defined what 'Swadeshi Movement' was, an embodiment of sacrifice, let us adore his sacrifice.

He truly believed and lived by the principles of self-reliance and self-sufficiency; let us follow his path!

- Social media post of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** on 05.09.2022

Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurates 29 projects worth Rs. 74.24 crore in Tirunelveli District

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** distributed welfare assistance to beneficiaries at Palayamkottai in Tirunelveli District on 08.09.2022.

At the outset, I extend my hearty welcome to all of you.

As Speaker, he tells the Legislators in the House that enough is enough and makes them sit down. But no one in the Assembly can ask the Speaker to sit down. That’s why yesterday I told him to speak well but briefly. In his speech he pointed it out and spoke well. However, he did not speak briefly. However, in his speech, the Speaker has listed the achievements that our party has made after coming to power and has expressed his feelings that the news of the achievements should reach the people. For that I would like to thank him and likewise, I would like to thank all the earlier speakers.

I am happy and honoured to have the opportunity to meet you all at this function in Tirunelveli, which is a land of valour.

Nellai, is also known as Tirunelveli, and was praised by Thirugnanasambandar as ‘Thikkellam Pugazhurum Tirunelveli’, and ‘Thanporunai Punal Nadu’ by Sekkizhar and as ‘Pon Thinindha Punal Perugum Porunai Thiru Nadhi’ by Kavi Chakravarthi Kambar.

It was also the capital of the Pandya Kingdom for some time. This is the place of warriors. Nelkattanseval Pooli Thevan, Ondi Veeran and Azhagu Muthukone were born here. This is the place of literature. This is where the short story writer Pudhumai Pithan was born. This town is the home town of more than 10 Sahitya Akademi award winners. This is a place of spirituality, with the gopuram of the Nellaiyappar Temple in the midst of the town rising high in the sky.

This is town which can boast of many educational institutes. Most of the educational institutions in Tamil Nadu were first established in Nellai. Palayamkottai here is called the ‘Oxford of South India’. Nellaiyappar Temple Kumbhabhishekam took place in 1944. After that, in 1974, the Kumbhabhishekam was conducted during the regime of Kalaignar, who

appointed Thirumuruga Kripananda Wariar as the head of the Kumbhabhishekam Committee. Dr.Kalaignar inaugurated the two-tier bridge in 1973 and named it after Saint Thiruvalluvar.

This function is now taking place in this city, which has such a distinguished history. Hon'ble Minister Raja Kannappan, the Minister-in-Charge of the District, has organized this function with great enthusiasm, excellence and splendour.

The Minister acted with double horse power speed, both as the Minister of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes Department and Minister-in-charge of the District, despite his native District being Ramanathapuram.

On behalf of the Government, I heartily congratulate him as well as the District Collector Thiru. Vishnu I.A.S., the Corporation Mayor Thiru. Saravanan and District officials, for successfully organizing the function.

In the past one year, the welfare programs of the D.M.K. Government in Tirunelveli District and the benefits that the people here have received are many.

Under the Innuyir Kappom Scheme, 1,113 persons have benefited; under the Kalaignar's Integrated Agriculture Development Programme, so far 25 dryland clusters have been identified and work is on to convert them into fertile land; crop loans have been sanctioned to 9,389 farmers on behalf of the Co-operative Department; jewel loans have been waived for 28,129 beneficiaries; more than 20 lakh patients have been treated under the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' Scheme; 54,917 students have benefited under the Illam Thedi Kalvi Scheme; so far, more than 6.92 crore women have benefited by the free travel for women scheme; and in Tamil Nadu and 1 lakh farmers have been given free electricity connection, out of this 3,421 people belong to this District.

In this way, more achievements are being made today.

Foundation stones for 727 works, valued at Rs.156.28 crore, will be laid; 29 completed projects, worth Rs.74.24 crore, will be dedicated to the people and the Government welfare assistance, worth Rs.117.78 crore, will be distributed to 30,658 beneficiaries. If you want specific projects, then you can mention various projects.

It is said that this is the place where Porunai civilization originated. The Porunai Museum with artefacts excavated from the banks of Tamiraparani, Adhichanallur and Sivakalai is to be established at Nellai at a cost of Rs.15 crore, to show the pride of Porunai civilization.

The dream project of Dr.Kalaignar's Tamiraparani-Nambiar-Karumeniyar river link project was initiated in 2009 and Rs. 369 crore was allotted. But that project was almost shelved during the previous regime. After our party came to power, I had ordered the completion of the project as soon as possible. I am confident that the project will be completed and put to public use by 2023.

When the project is completed, 20,340 hectares of agricultural land in Nellai and Thoothukudi Districts will be benefited and more than 50 villages will also be benefited.

Nellai brings to mind the Kappalottiya Thamizhan V.O. Chidambaranar and Mahakavi Bharathiyar. Both studied in the M.D.T. Hindu College Higher Secondary School in Nellai junction. The Government has sanctioned Rs.1.05 crore for setting up a decorative arch and improvement of classrooms in the school. The foundation stone for these works was laid today.

On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of V.O.Chidambaranar, a sound and light programme is being set up at the Manimandapam in Nellai Sripuram, so that the future generations can learn about his life story. Rs.70 lakh has been allocated for this and the works have started.

Once a stronghold of the Pandya kings and the Poligars, the building which now houses the Medai police station, has been renovated and dedicated to the public here.

A library has been constructed, at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh at the Manimandapam of freedom fighter Ondiveeran, which was set up by Muthamizharignar Dr.Kalaignar.

Individual pattas have been issued to 78 tribals living in Papanasam in the Western Ghats, fulfilling their long-pending demand.

In order to improve the livelihood of the tribal people, they have been given a certificate of incorporation in order to market value-added honey, horticultural crops and tubers. Separate sales centres by women have been opened.

For the industrial development of Tamil Nadu and to make the State number one in the country, we have planned to develop entrepreneurs not only in urban areas but in rural areas also.

Through the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission, Government orders have been issued for starting regional startup centres in Madurai, Tirunelveli and Erode. District-wise startups have been started in Nellai and Palayamkottai. Under the Nellai centre, Tenkasi, Thoothukudi,Kanniyakumari,Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai have been linked to the centre.

This centre will encourage new entrepreneurs in these Districts. The centre will create employment opportunities, support new industries and innovation by college students.

Elephants play a major role in maintaining the forests. Apart from announcing Agathiyar Hills in the District as elephant corridor, the Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary has been declared as a Ramsar site.

For providing employment opportunities to youth, Solar Battery manufacturing units will be started in the SIPCOT Industrial park in Gangaikondan;

Today in the Dinamani newspaper there was a list of requirements for Nellai District. I am really happy to read the list. I consulted with the officials and an announcement will be made by me in this function.

A bio-diversity eco park will be set up at a cost of Rs.7 crore along the western ghats to attract tourists and to create awareness about maintaining the environment by people.

Secondly, an integrated plantain auction centre will be set up in Kalakkadu, following the demand raised by farmers.

A sports stadium and a sports training centre will be set up in Radhapuram to train students and youth in various sports to make them compete at the national and international level. Land acquisition work for the western bypass road to Tirunelveli City, one of the major demands of the District, is going on. After the completion of the land acquisition work, the work on the **western bypass road will be taken up in three phases at a cost of Rs. 370 crore**.

Every day, we are starting new schemes and implementing schemes. I am happy to see that two important schemes are being implemented in Tirunelveli District. For that I appreciate the District administration.

For the first time in Tamil Nadu, a scheme called **'Thai Care Nellai'** has been introduced for digital care of pregnant mothers in Nellai District, for medical consultation and treatment. The pregnant mothers will be continuously monitored and their entire physical examination data will be digitally maintained.

The objective of the project is to achieve zero maternal deaths. For this project, the District Collector, Thiru. Vishnu I.A.S., has been given the 'Good Administrator' Award by the State Government.

There are over 1,200 ponds and supply channels for the Tamiraparani River in the District. The Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Thiru. Thangam Thenarasu launched the Nellai Water Resources Movement on 30.07.2021 to protect these ponds and channels. In this system, voluntary organizations have been incorporated and various works are being carried out to protect the environment and improve water bodies. 1,200 ponds have been surveyed and digital mapping has also been done. Under this project, several ponds have been dredged, rejuvenated and protected.

In the year 2021, during the north-east monsoon, the ponds that were not receiving water were repaired and more than 50 ponds have now received water. In this way, in the survey carried out to prevent water entering the

Tamil Nadu is the only State which has developed the scheme. Two days ago, **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi Thiru. Arvind Kejriwal visited Chennai. He appreciated the Tamil Nadu Government's scheme** of giving Rs. 1,000 per month for girl students of Government Schools if they pursue their college studies. He said that the scheme should be implemented throughout the country to increase enrolment of girls in higher studies. In this way, all the projects brought by the Government of Tamil Nadu are model projects for India.

Last April, I visited Delhi. After hearing that the model schools in Delhi are functioning successfully, I visited some of them. I made a request to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi Thiru. Arvind Kejriwal, that I would create a similar model in Tamil Nadu and he should inaugurate it. In six months, we got him here and started it.

"I thought it would take two years. But you have started it in six months !", Hon'ble

Nellai City during the rainy season, it was found that the Thiruppani Karisalkulam had been destroyed and was missing. That canal has now been dug up. **This will prevent flood water from entering the city during the coming monsoon.**

As I go to each District, I see that the respective Districts are developing in their own way. Balanced growth is the growth of all Districts!

Every member of the Legislative Assembly, while making demands for their Constituency, used to say that their Constituency was backward, so this or that demand should be fulfilled.

For me, there should be no such thing as a backward block. That is why I have started the project called 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency' for 234 Constituencies where ten issues that have not been resolved for a long time are written down and given to the District Collector whereupon they are implemented.

Veerapuram, next to Avadi in Tiruvallur District. She is nine years old. She is studying in class four. She suffered from facial disfigurement. Her facial expression was affected. She was mocked and ignored by fellow students and people around her. I got that message. Immediately, I got in touch with Hon'ble Minister for Dairy Development Thiru. Nassar

Chief Minister of Delhi Thiru. Arvind Kejriwal exclaimed. **This is the speed of the Dravidian Model Government!**

For me, what needs to be done should be done immediately and swiftly!

You can take as much time as you want before planning. But I am one who thinks that after planning and announcing, there should be no delay. Because I am the son of Dr.Kalaignar.

Thiruvalluvar says that you can take time to plan things. But there should not be any delay after conceiving the things.

I follow it! That is why, whatever the plans announced by the Government of Tamil Nadu today, they are being implemented immediately. I have been constantly telling the Ministers and officials that not only should schemes be implemented, the Government should also solve the problems of individuals.

You may have seen recent news about a school girl named Tanya, who belongs to the Avadi area. There was news about her in all the newspapers and TV channels. She is the daughter of Stephen Raj and Sowbagya, from

from that District. I directed the Hon'ble Minister to arrange for proper treatment. The Thiruvallur District Collector and the Minister immediately went and saw the girl Tanya. Her parents said that she was a normal girl at the time of birth. At the age of 3, she got a black spot on her face. Only after that, her face got distorted. Tanya's parents said they had spent several lakhs of rupees but to no avail. As soon as I was informed, I immediately asked the Hon'ble Minister to admit her to a nearby private hospital, Saveetha and arrange for her treatment.

A committee of 10 eminent doctors was appointed. The operation took 10 hours.

There is no history of this type of surgery in India. This was the first time. The operation was successfully conducted at the Saveetha Hospital. After two or three days, I visited the hospital and saw Tanya. She and her family greeted me and the Government with gratitude.

The joy on that child's face was the greatest compliment to me. There is no parallel to that compliment. There is no greater gift than that in the world. The

achievement of our Government is to bring happiness in the hearts of lakhs of people.

More than 30,000 people have been given welfare assistance in this function. Thirty thousand families have benefited from this.

Co-operative loans have been provided. Houses have been built. Loans have been given to transgenders. Business investment loans have been provided. Nellai Corporation has provided loan assistance to the children of the employees. Various types of assistance have been given in this way.

Through this, it is clear that our Government of Tamil Nadu is a Government that knocks on the door of every individual's house and benefits him/her.

Under the 'Pudhumai Penn' Scheme, girl college students receive Rs. 1,000 every month. After the end of the programme, you would have seen on television what one of the beneficiaries said. I was really proud to hear the girl's statement. This year alone, more than one lakh students are benefited. Through that scheme, the light of education has been lit in so many families. Now in Tamil Nadu, there is a Government that takes care of all the families.

We are all members of a single family, called the Tamil community. I am one of them. You are one too. **Let us all work together to make our State the premier state of India that brings happiness and contentment in the minds of all people**. That is the real Dravidian Model of Government and that is what we continue to insist on. With that, I bid you farewell with love with an appeal to you to continue to support this Government.

Neidhal Salt launched, salt pan workers get Rs. 5,000 relief for non-production months

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** distributed cheques to 5 workers, to mark the inauguration of the distribution of relief aid of Rs. 5,000 per year to the families of salt workers in the non-production months of October to December. He also inaugurated the sale of the Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation's salt in the open market under the new commercial brand name of 'Neidhal Salt'.

Salt production industry is seasonal. The salt pan workers have work just for 9 months. They suffer a lot during the rainy season as the salt pans are largely in coastal areas, and there are no alternative jobs.

Considering their plight, it was announced in the demand for grants for the Industries Department for 2021-2022 that a relief aid of Rs. 5,000 per year would be distributed to the families of salt pan workers who had registered with the Tamil Nadu Manual Workers Social Security and Welfare Board.

As per the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the scheme. The scheme will benefit thousands of workers.

Through the public distribution system and to the noon meal scheme, the Tamil Nadu Salt Corporation is selling at cheap rates to the general public and school children crystal and purified salt mixed with iodine and doubly enriched salt.

The 2021-2022 demand for grants for the Industries Department also announced the marketing of crystal and purified powder salt mixed with iodine under a new brand name 'Neidhal Uppu (salt)'. Accordingly, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the open market sale of the salt at fair price.

Hon'ble Chief Minister reviews storm water drain works in Kolathur Constituency

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inspected the storm water drain works, carried out at a cost of Rs. 30.77 crore, in various parts of Kolathur Constituency, on 13.08.2022. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for new schemes, to be executed at a cost of Rs. 2.72 crore and declared open schemes that were completed, at a cost of Rs.5.63 crore. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also inaugurated the renovation work of Kolathur lake and storm water drain works, at a cost of Rs. 12.30 crore.

Storm water drain works for about 880 metres from Chandrayogi Street to Cooks Road in Jamalia area, under the Kolathur Constituency, at a cost of Rs. 4.27 crore;

Storm water drain works to a length of 260 metres in Kosasthalaiyar Basin at S.R.B.Kovil Street in Thiru.Vi.Ka Nagar Zone, at a cost Rs.3.10 crore, under the Integrated Storm Water Drain Scheme and;

Storm Water Drain works, under the Integrated Storm Water Drain Scheme, on the Kosasthalaiyar Basin, opposite to Paper Mills Road and Everwin School in Thiru.Vi.Ka Nagar Zone, at a cost of Rs. 23.40 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister reviewed the storm water drain works, carried out in the Kolathur Constituency, at a total cost of Rs. 30.77 crore. On that occasion, the Hon'ble Chief Minister instructed the officials to complete the works before the onset of the monsoon and told them that there should be no compromise on quality of works in the pretext of early completion of the work.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open Urban Welfare Centres, one each at School Road (Rs.30.90 lakh), Rohini Road (Rs.30.90 lakh), S.R.B. Koil Street (Rs.34.80 lakh), Maduraisami Mutt Road (Rs.28 lakh) and Jawaharlal Nehru 3rd circuit Road (Rs.25 lakh).

Renovation works of Chennai Higher Secondary School in Thiru.Vi.Ka nagar Zone under the Greater Chennai Corporation limit, at a cost of Rs. 97.52 lakh, under the Singara Chennai 2.0 Scheme and under the Kolathur Constituency Fund, a new hall for performing rituals for the dead, at a cost of Rs. 24.78 lakh on 40 sq.metre area at G.K.M.Road in Thiru.Vi.Ka Nagar Zone.

Totally, the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid foundation stone for new schemes, worth Rs. 2.72 crore.

A Tennis Court on a 1,260 sq.metre area in the Chennai Primary School Grounds in Srinivasa Nagar, Thiru.Vi.Ka Nagar Zone, from the Capital Fund, at a cost of Rs. 60.32 lakh;

Four new operation theatres at the Upgraded Government Suburban Hospital in Periyar Nagar, for General Surgery, Orthopaedic surgery, surgery during childbirth and for diseases related to women, and ENT and Ophthalmic surgery, at a cost of Rs.2.75 crore and oxygen plant, costing Rs. 1.28 crore and RTPCR Lab at a cost of Rs. One crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open all these completed schemes, executed at a total cost of Rs. 5.63 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the renovation, deepening, strengthening and beautification works of Kolathur lake, at a cost of Rs. 7.30 crore, on behalf of the Water Resources Ministry. The renovation works included deepening the lake, strengthening the banks of the lake for a length of 510 metres, construction of 120 metre-long compound wall, digging a new canal for a length of 170 metres and a walking path for a length of 400 metres.

On behalf of the Highways Department, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the storm water drain works in Selvi Nagar, Mahatma Gandhi Nagar, Mahaveer Nagar and Kannagi Nagar, under Kolathur Constituency limits, which are on the Inner Ring Road that links the National Highway Roads and the Corporation Roads in Chennai. The purpose of the storm water drain works is to prevent flow of water to low-lying areas during the rainy season.

Earlier at a function held at Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School campus, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over free bicycles to the students of G.K.M. Colony Government Higher Secondary School in Kolathur Constituency, Chennai Girls Higher Secondary School, Market Street, Perambur, Chennai Higher Secondary School, Perambur - Bunder Garden, Chennai Higher Secondary School, Kolathur, Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Kolathur, Lourdes Girls Higher Secondary School, Paper Mills Road, Perambur and Champalal Pagariya Jain Higher Secondary School, Paper Mills Road, Perambur. The bicycles were given to 927 boys and 619 girls, totalling 1,546 cycles, costing Rs. 78.30 lakh.

Following this, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, at a function held at Arulmigu Kapaleeswarar Temple Arts and Science College, distributed school fees of Rs. 10,000 each as cash to 225 first year and 209 second year students, For another 225 first year students, the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed school bags, containing stainless steel water bottle, pen and note books.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also distributed educational gadgets to students of Chennai Higher Secondary School and also honoured the school teachers.

Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurates dance drama on Velu Nachiyar who trounced the British in war

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inaugurated the ‘Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar’ musical dance drama, at the Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai on 13.08.2022, jointly organized by the Art and Culture Department, Information and Public Relations Department and the Iyal Isai Nataka Mandram. The Hon’ble Chief Minister also witnessed the dance drama and released the logo of the drama, with a view to popularize it throughout Tamil Nadu.

Addressing the audience on the occasion, the Hon’ble Chief Minister said Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar had bravery in her breath. After the death of her husband in the war with the British, the responsibility of retrieving her country fell on her. With the able support of Maruthu Pandiyar, Hyder Ali and Gopal Naik, she mobilized the people of Sivagangai Seemai and fought with the British Army continuously for 7 years and succeeded in recovering Sivagangai from the British. Following this, she ruled Sivagangai till 1789. She was the first woman warrior who fought against the British for freedom, and predates Jhansi Rani by nearly 75 years. There is no one equal to Velu Nachiyar in bravery. She ruled Sivagangai Seemai till her death on 25.12.1896.

To commemorate the memory of Velu Nachiyar and to make known the details of her life, OVM Theatres, in association with the Department of Art and Culture, produced the dance drama with 62 artistes and the same was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Chief Minister.

The musical dance drama was staged also at C.N.C College in Erode on 15.08.2022, at Rajah Muthiah Mandram, Madurai on 21.08.2022, at Kalaiarangam, Tiruchirappalli on 22.08.2022 and at Hindusthan College Auditorium in Coimbatore on 28.08.2022.

Hon'ble Chief Minister reviews working of Minnagam

At an event on 16.08.2022 at the Secretariat to inaugurate new power sub-stations of the Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited and the Tamil Nadu Power Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited and the operation of transformers, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** enquired about the performance of 'Minnagam' – customers grievance redressal centre - from the Hon'ble Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise. The Hon'ble Minister informed the Hon'ble Chief Minister that more than 10 lakh grievances had been received and they are being redressed. The Hon'ble Chief Minister said he would make a visit to Minnagam and conduct a review.

Accordingly, the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited 'Minnagam', located in the Headquarters of TANGEDCO on Anna Salai, Chennai and reviewed its working.

During the review, he got in touch with Thiru. Swaminathan, the aggrieved customer to hit the mark of 10 lakh in the list of such customers, through cell phone and enquired about the redressal service. He also took calls from the general public, listened to their grievances and ordered officials to solve them immediately.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the 'Minnagam', the service centre of electricity consumers, on 20.06.2021. From the day of inception to date, it has received good reception from the customers. At its Headquarters in Chennai, it is functioning in 3 shifts with 65 persons each and in the 44 distribution taluks, functioning under TANGEDCO, with 4 persons per day (totally 176 persons). People can lodge their grievances round-the-clock in its cell phone 94987 94987 for the entire State.

In this centre, all complaints including those connected with electricity supply and name change, power cut, change in consumer meter card and doubts in the consumption charges levied, can be lodged.

During the review, the Hon'ble Chief Minister said: "Till yesterday, 10,50,282 complaints have been received from the public. Of them, 10,41,872 have been resolved, that is 99% complaints have been solved and this is to be appreciated very much."

"In resolving the grievances of the people of Tamil Nadu in regard to electricity matters, steps should be taken to redress them the very same day by working vigorously. Besides acknowledging the receipt of complaints through SMS, redressal of the grievance after it is achieved should be confirmed with the concerned person through cell phone", he said.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister ordered that the Electricity Department officials should make arrangements for appointing an executive Engineer in each Assembly Constituency and a Superindenting Engineer in the Constituencies of Hon'ble Ministers and get in touch with the Hon'ble Ministers/ MLAs and learn about the needs and grievances of the general public and make arrangements for their immediate redressal.

Hon'ble Chief Minister confers 'Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Awards'

'Time to establish relationship of Tamil with world languages'

At the Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award distribution event, held at the Central Institute of Classical Tamil Research, Chennai on 22.08.2022, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin distributed those awards for the years 2020 and 2021 respectively to Dr. M. Rajendran and to Dr. K. Nedunchezhiyan. The great efforts of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar made the Union Government confer in 2004 the classical status to Tamil language which is known for its antiquity and literary richness. In 2006, on the consistent insistence of Muthamizharignar that a separate institute should be set up for classic Tamil language with exclusive features of its own, the Union Government made it a part of the Institute of Indian Languages. Later, in 2008, it was made Central Institute of Classical Tamil with autonomous status. The Hon'ble Chief Minister is the chairman of the Institute.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** distributed 'Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Awards' at Central Institute of Classical Tamil Research, Chennai on 22.08.2022.

Considering the greatness of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Muthamizharignar set up a 'Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Endowment' there, from out of his own funds at a cost of Rs. One crore on 24.07.2008. Through this Trust, every year the 'Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award' is to be distributed. This award carries the high cash amount in India of Rs.10 lakh, a citation and a statue of Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi.

The award is given to the best contributor to the classical Tamil research in the fields of archaeology, epigraphy, numismatics, literature, linguistics, creative literature, literary criticism, translation and fine arts.

After the inception of the Trust, the first award for the year 2009, was given in 2010 to the Finnish Indologist Prof. Asko Parpola by the then President of India at the World Classical Tamil Conference at Coimbatore.

After that, the awards for the 10 years of 2010 to 2019 were given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at the event held for it in 22.01.2022. Following that, the recipient for the award for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 were selected by the Award Selection Committee set up by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chairman of Central Institute of Classical Tamil. They are Dr. M. Rajendran, former Vice Chancellor of Tamil University, Dr. K. Nedunchezhiyan, former Tamil Professor and Dr. Jean-Luc Chevillard, Research Scholar from France.

2020 – Dr. M. Rajendran (Former Vice Chancellor, Tamil University).

Born at a hamlet Eda-Annavasal in Tiruvarur District on 03.03.1951, Dr.M. Rajendran studied at the Tiruvaiyaru Rajah's College under 'Ilakkana Kadal' T.V. Gopalaiyer, and got Pulavar degree. He studied the post-graduate degree course in Tamil and M.Phil course at Pachaiyappa's College, Chennai. He got the doctorate degree by doing research on Colin Mackenzie's (1754 – 1821) Tamil palm leaf manuscripts. From 1974 to 1986, he worked as Tamil Pulavar in the research institute for Government oriental manuscripts, as special 'Thagamaiyar' and lecturer in Tamil University from 1986 to 1989 and as Vice Chancellor of Tamil University from 2008 to 2011.

2021 – Dr. K. Nedunchezhiyan (Former Tamil Professor).

Dr.K.Nedunchezhiyan was born on 15.06.1944; He worked as Head of the Literature Department and Professor of Thanjai Tamil University. From 2008 to 2010, he was chairman of Periyar Higher Research Centre in the Bharathidasan University. He wrote books like Tamil and Thamizhagam in Indian culture, Atheism in Tamil literature and History of Tamil orthography and his book 'Thamizharin

Adayalangal' won a prize from the Tamil Development Department of Government of Tamil Nadu in 2006 under the anthropology category.

2022 – Dr. Jean-Luc Chevillard (Senior Researcher) CNRS –Universite- D'iderot Paris, Laboratoire d' Histoite des Theories, Linguistiques – (Uumr 7597 HTL).

Dr. Jean-Luc Chevillard, the French scholar was born on 23.03.1956. He studied mathematics and linguistics, paid special attention to grammar tradition, learnt Senavaraiyar's prose commentary on Tholkappiyam with the help of T.V. Gopalaiyer and translated it into French. In the history of translation of Tamil works, this translation with prose rendition is the first and is praiseworthy. Working as a researcher for 28 years in the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), he is greatly interested and well versed in Tamil prosody and the Thirukkural. He has a thorough knowledge of the Thevaram hymns.

Accordingly, the Hon'ble Chief Minister gave the awards to Dr.Rajendran and Dr.Nedunchezhiyan for the years 2020 and 2021 with the cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh each, citation and a statuette of Kalaignar Karunanidhi. For the year 2022, the name of the researcher from France Dr. Jean-Luc Chevillard was announced. As he was unable to reach India, the award for him will be handed over later.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister also released 16 books.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occassion

I extend my affectionate greetings to all of you.

You all know that today, August 22, is a historic day. This is the day 'Singaara' Chennai came into being 383 years ago. 22.08.1639 was the day, Chennai was created.

When I was the 'Worshipful' Mayor of Madras, the then Chief Minister, our leader Kalaignar changed the name of Madras into Chennai which is celebrated today everywhere with feelings as 'Namma Chennai, Namma Perumai' (Our Chennai, Our pride).

It is our D.M.K. Government headed by Anna that joyously named this country where Tamils live as Tamil Nadu. Likewise, it is the D.M.K. Government that officially named this capital that was called Madras, as Chennai. Again, it is the D.M.K. Government that obtained the classical language status to the 3,000-year- old Tamil language.

Many linguists and archaeologists hail Tamil as one of the most ancient languages of the world. Our classical Tamil has the capacity to be on its own without depending on other languages. Capable of absorbing new things while discarding the old, Tamil has the vocabulary suitable to adjust itself to the changing times. The country knows the demand made and the efforts taken by Muthamizharignar Thalaivar Kalaignar to confer the classical status to the Tamil language.

Even after the conferment of classical language status to Tamil by the Union Government in 2004, the works done by Muthamizharignar Kalaignar are worthy lasting renown in the history of Tamil Nadu.

- It is Kalaignar who brought the Central Institute of Classical Tamil to Chennai from Mysuru.
- He strengthened its infrastructure and administration.
- The CICT office opening ceremony took place on 30.06.2008.
- During Muthamizharignar Kalaignar's tenure as Chief Minister, the Government of Tamil Nadu handed over on November 5, 2007 to the CICT 16.586 acres of land

(6.715 hectares) at Perumbakkam, Chennai. It levelled the ground also at a cost of Rs.1.45 crore. A new building was erected there and was declared open by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in my presence on 12.01.2022. The big building we see today is only that one.

In his speech at the CICT office opening function in 2008, Kalaignar made a magnificent announcement. He mentioned proudly,"A 150-year-old dream; my determination 50 years ago that, dream should materialize. On this pleasant day, I present Rs.1 crore from my own funds to the Institute for establishing Kalaignar Karunanidhi Classical Language Trust."

Our Muthamizharignar Kalaignar's principled life was 'Even if we fall, let Tamil live'. That announcement is a symbol of his love for Annai Tamil.

Kalaignar made this announcement, following the path of Puratchi Kavignar who said: 'If Tamil flourishes Tamil Nadu will flourish'.

Awards are distributed every year to scholars in linguistics.

- Every year 'Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award' is distributed to deserving Tamil scholars through the Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Trust. This award carries, a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh, the highest at the national level, a citation and a memento carrying the image of Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi.

The first award was given to the Finnish Professor Asko Parpolo at the World Classic Tamil Conference at Coimbatore by the then President of India on June 23, 2010. The awards were not announced between 2011 and 2019. After the DMK came to power, the awardees were properly selected for the un-announced awards and at an event on 22.01.2022, the prizes were distributed.

Today, the awards are presented to Dr. M.Rajendran, former vice-chancellor, for the year 2020, to Dr. K. Nedunchezhiyan, for the year 2021 and to the Researcher from France Dr. Jean-Luc Chevillard for the year 2022. I extend my hearty congratulations to the awardees on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

- M. Rajendran was vice chancellor of the Tamil University. It was said in those days that the footsteps of Pachaiyappa's college would sing of Tamil's sweetness. Rajendran studied Tamil in such a college. He got the doctorate degree by researching on Col. Mackenzie's palm leaf manuscripts. He served as the Director of the Department of Translation and the Department of Tamil Development of the Government of Tamil Nadu. He served as Director in Kural

Peedam, Agara Mudali scheme and International Institute of Tamil Studies. Chief Minister Kalaignar appointed such a worthy person as the Director of Tamil University in 2008.

The world conference on Classical Tamil was conducted for 5 days in Coimbatore solely due to the pride that comes out of the classical stature. That conference demonstrated Kalaignar's hard work, though he was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, determination and his love for the Tamil language. The President of India came in person and shared his heart-felt appreciation. The co-ordinator for that conference was none other than the one who is to receive the award now, our Rajendran.

Today, he is the chairman of the high-level committee for amending the public library act. He is the author of 14 books; publisher for 12 books; and is working as publisher for the literary magazine Kanaiyaazhi. It is most suitable to present this award given in the name of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar to Rajendran who is daily working as a master of Tamil.

It will take several hours to speak about the intelligence of Prof. Nedunchezhiyan who is to get the award for the year 2021. If Muthamizharignar Kalaignar and 'Inamana' Perasiriyar were alive today they would have been very happy to see Dr.Nedunchezhiyan getting the award.

Perasiriyar Nedunchezhiyan dedicated himself in the service of Tamil, the Tamil race and the Dravidian Movement. He has authored many books like India Panbattil Thamizhum Thamizharum, Thamizharin Adayalangal, Sanga Kaala Thamizhar Samayam, Ulaga Thotramum Thamizhar Koatpaadum and Aaseevagamum Ayyanar Varalaarum.

Our Professor is capable of writing serials about Thanthai Periyar and the Dravidian Movement. Not only an author, he is a fighter also. Giving the award to him is a matter of pride.

The French scholar Dr. Jean-Luc Chevillard gets the Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi Classical Tamil Award for the year 2022. He is not only publishing books for non-Tamils to understand the inner essence of Tamil literature but continues his research works also. He is greatly interested in researching ancient Tamil grammar. He is doing these things jointly with many world research institutes, a great matter.

In this way, 3 deserving persons who are scholars in Tamil, are being given these awards.

The CICT has given priority to 41 classical Tamil books for research. It is doing excellent work with Union Government's guidance and Tamil Nadu Government's directions.

This Institute, set up to undertake research on literature and grammar that evolved from pre-historic period to 6th century A.D. is showing special interest in Tamil language research and its development.

This Institute has taken up as its important purpose to research the antiquity and unique characteristics of classical Tamil and its heritage and safeguard it. Schemes have been framed likewise and research works are undertaken.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is ready to provide all facilities to this Institute because it is a set up for the Tamil language, Tamils rules today, and it is a rule by the Tamil race.

At last year's event I made some announcements. The name of the road where CICT is located has been changed into 'Semmozhi Salai' and is implemented by our Government.

I stated then that Chairs for Tamil language would be set up in famous foreign universities through the CICT. Work on them is being carried out. In the first phase, works are on for setting up Chairs for Tamil in South-east Asian

countries of (1) Reunion- de la Reunion university (Reunion Island University), (2) Sumatera Utara University (Indonesia), (3) Khmer language Research Centre (CKS) – (Cambodia), (4) Languages and International Research University (Vietnam) and (5) Chulalongkorn University (Thailand).

Though the features of Tamil language – antiquity, strength, stability and nobility are established, the time has come to establish firmly the relationship between Tamil and the world languages. Of course Thaninayakam Adigal, Paavaanar and other linguists had laid the foundation for it, the need has arisen now to take it to the next stage and make comparative research between Tamil and world languages. The Chairs set up for Tamil language may fulfill this need.

I toil every day as Chief Minister to realize the dream of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar. More than that, I don't have any greatness or duty. We have implemented the scheme – awards for Tamil scholars and dream houses to them which cannot be easily thought of.

In tune with the call 'Tamil Everywhere; Tamil in Everything', the CICT has identified the ideas current to the times and published 16 books. I appreciate the Institute. Even recently, I presented to the Prime Minister of India, when I received him, the English translation of 'Tholkappiyam', published by the CICT.

Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture and Archaeology Thiru. Thangam Thenarasu is taking up constructive action for further strengthening the CICT, created by the efforts of Muthamizharignar, and for developing the Tamil language and Tamil Institutions. Prof. E. Sundaramoorthy, Vice Chairman of CICT is helping the Institute with the wealth of his experience.

Prof. R. Chandrasekaran, Director of the Institute is functioning with interest and involvement for the growth and development of CICT.

The CICT has taken up many important schemes to bring richness to Tamil language. Stating that Government of Tamil Nadu will be always supportive to achieve the targets set by the CICT, I take leave of you conveying my greetings.

Five Memoranda of Understanding signed with investment of Rs. 2,250 crore and jobs for 37,450

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** signed MoUs for 5 projects and Leather Policy 2022 was released on 23.08.2022.

Under the chairmanship of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** Memoranda of Understanding were signed for 5 projects, with an investment of Rs. 2,250 crore, that will facilitate employment for 37,450 persons, at the Footwear and Leather Sector Conclave, at Chennai on 23.08.2022.

Tamil Nadu is one of the leading States in the country in terms of economic and industrial development. The Government of Tamil Nadu is strengthening the state economy by attracting massive investments and providing employment to lakhs of youth in the State. The Government is taking various measures to attract investments to make the Tamil Nadu economy a 1 trillion US dollar economy, a target fixed by the Hon’ble Chief Minister by 2030-2031.

Since the takeover of the Government by the Hon’ble Chief Minister Thiru. M. K. Stalin, 192 contracts have been signed attracting a total investment of Rs. 2.20 lakh crore, with employment assurance to about 3,02 200 persons.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has been conducting department-wise investment conferences and attracting investments. In this regard, a footwear and leather industry conference was held in Chennai.

MoUs inked in the conference

In the presence of Hon’ble Chief Minister, MoUs for 5 projects, involving an investment of Rs.2,250 crore

and providing employment to 37,450 persons were signed. The details are as follows:

Footwear Manufacturing by Kothari-Phoenix Accord Ltd., Footwear cluster (a plug and play infrastructure) by Kothari- Phoenix Accord Ltd., Non-Leather Footwear Manufacturing by Kothari – SEMS Group, Leather ornaments and fashion accessories by Wagon Group and Non-Leather Footwear Manufacturing by Walkaroo International Pvt. Ltd., These schemes are being implemented in Perambalur and Ranipet (Panapakkam) Districts.

Tamil Nadu Footwear and Leather Products Policy 2022

The Hon'ble Chief Minister had announced in last April, in a function held on behalf of the Industries Department, that the footwear and leather products policy will be published soon. Accordingly, the Hon'ble Chief Minister released the Tamil Nadu Footwear and Leather Products Policy, 2022 to further strengthen Tamil Nadu's role in the footwear and leather goods sector.

Sector-wise studies are being carried out and sector-specific policies are being published to regulate the development of the sector in a balanced manner. The policy is designed to protect the environment, attract investment in the non-leather footwear sector, generate massive employment and multiply exports.

International footwear manufacturers were present and addressed through video presentation

In this conference, representatives of international shoe manufacturers and shoe manufacturing associations discussed the market conditions in Tamil Nadu and the investment opportunities arising from it through a video presentation. The details are as follows:-

Thiru. Rahul Vira, South-East Asia Chief Executive Officer of Sketchers.

Ms. Jane Wilson, Principal Officer of the UK Shoe Association.

Thiru. Ron Chang and Ms. Jenny Chang, heads of Everon Group.

Thiru. Bob Lloyd, Director, Walmart Group.

Ms. Jane Chow, Director of Alto Company and

Thiru. Kent, General Manager of SEMS Group.

Organizations directly participating in the conference

Retailers Association of India (RAI) Walkaroo, VKC Group, Paragon, C and J Clark Limited, Sketchers India, Puma India, Deichmann, Khadims, Ajio, Reliance Footprints, Metro, Evervon, Fengda, Sree Leathers, Indian Terrain, Hasbro Clothing and Kothari Group. High officials from these companies participated directly.

Companies participating in the conference through video presentation

Top officials from UK Footwear Association, Nike India, Columbia Sportswear, New Balance, Collares, Kickers, Bay High, Taiwan Onitsuka Tiger and SEMS Group participated via video.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in the occasion

"I would like to extend my warm welcome to all of you.

It gives me great pleasure to preside over and address this Investor's Conference,

organized on behalf of the Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce Department.

It gives me great pleasure to know that this is the seventh investor conference of the sector to be organized within one year of the present Government.

This conference was held in many places like Chennai, Coimbatore, Thoothukudi, and Dubai and there is no chance that so many conferences would have been held in such a short period in any other state. For that, I would like to convey my heartiest congratulations and appreciation to the Minister and officials of this Department for their tireless work.

A lot of investments are being attracted and new industries are being started, many companies are coming to Tamil Nadu and growing, this is a sign of good governance in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu has moved up to the third position in the list of states in ease of doing business.

I would like to point out here that the main reason for this is that the Industries Department in particular is run by very good people.

Achieving the target of USD 1 trillion economy by 2030 requires not only attracting large-scale capital-intensive high-tech industrial investments but also large-scale employment-intensive industrial investments.

A few days ago, Raghuram Rajan, the former Governor of RBI said that 'development projects should create employment'. As far as the Government of Tamil Nadu is concerned, whatever the plan, it is about creating new jobs. I have ordered the authorities to work in this way.

Keeping this in mind, all the plans and policies of the Government of Tamil Nadu are formulated.

The following sectors where large investments can be made are:

- Semi-conductor Manufacturing,
- Manufacturing of electric vehicles,
- Solar cells,
- Green hydrogen production,
- Information data centres,
- Petroleum products,
- Renewable energy,

- Textiles and Clothing,
- Footwear and leather goods,
- Jewellery and ornaments and
- Food processing

We are focusing on all the above.

By attracting investments in such sectors, more jobs will be created. Through this, the economic development of the State can be strengthened and the productive environment of the state can also be improved.

By setting up industries which provide more employment in backward Districts, the per capita income of the people of the area increases and the economy of the area grows.

We are implementing the goals of an inclusive Dravidian Model of development in all sectors.

Whatever the field, a policy must be formulated to take it forward.

- Tamil Nadu FinTech Policy
- Tamil Nadu Export Promotion Strategy
- Tamil Nadu Life Sciences Policy
- Tamil Nadu Research and Development Policy

We have released such policies in a row. Now I am delighted to release the Tamil Nadu Footwear and Leather Products Policy 2022 for the development of the footwear and leather sector.

- Green Hydrogen Policy
- Ethanol Policy
- Revised Electric Vehicle Policy
- Revised Airspace and Defence Policy a number of such policies are to be released soon.

In addition to the regular incentives offered under the Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy 2021, a special scheme to promote the production of technical textiles and garments is also slated to be announced soon.

This will certainly make it clear that the Government is prepared for any investment scenario and is planning accordingly.

At the national level, Tamil Nadu's contribution to footwear production is 26 per cent and 45 per cent to exports.

The leather products produced in Tamil Nadu are very popular in the global markets.

Tamil Nadu is the state with the largest number of footwear, leather and leather goods manufacturing centres in India.

Ambur, Ranipet, Vaniyambadi, Vellore, Pernambut, Tiruchirappalli, Dindigul, Erode and Chennai are major centres for leather and leather goods.

In India, Tamil Nadu is the only state that has implemented chlorination (Zero Liquid Discharge) across all tanneries. A policy statement on footwear and leather goods has been issued to further strengthen the sector.

The policy is also designed to attract investment and create employment for 2,00,000 persons, with an investment of Rs.20,000 crore.

I would also like to inform you that through SIPCOT/SIDCO and public-private partnership, the Government is developing green clusters for new non-leather footwear manufacturing units in the form of industrial parks of 30-50 acres with ready-made industrial complexes.

The Government will take steps to further strengthen infrastructure, by analyzing the gaps in the footwear and leather goods manufacturing supply chain.

A highlight of this policy is that the eligibility criteria for incentives in this sector have been relaxed to a great extent!

The Government gives more importance to this sector as it provides more employment, that too to women and especially to women who have studied only up to school. The Government is also trying to focus on the non-leather footwear sector.

Non-leather footwear is likely to grow phenomenally in the next 10 years. It is hoped that more than 70 per cent of non-leather footwear will be sold in bulk. For that, in the published policy, great importance has been given to the non-leather footwear sector.

Recently, all the famous footwear manufacturers in the world have started offering eco-friendly products. Every one of us should feel that the conservation of natural resources is one of our duties. For this purpose, our Government is taking many progressive measures.

Already, many footwear manufacturing companies have invested in Tamil Nadu. Many companies are also showing interest in investing. With this policy, more companies will come towards Tamil Nadu.

In 2009, I inaugurated the business units of Cheyyar SEZ. It has grown into a giant company today with an investment of Rs. 2,000 crore, providing employment to 35,000. Seventy per cent of the employees are women. This company is expanding its business further.

With an investment of Rs.1,000 crore and employment for 25,000 persons, Hong Fu of Taiwan has chosen Tamil Nadu to set up its manufacturing project.

World famous non-leather footwear companies like NIKE, Adidas, Reebok and Puma have not directly established manufacturing plants in Tamil Nadu. Instead, they are carrying out manufacturing through contract manufacturers. To attract such multinational companies, the environment should be strengthened.

Construction of a 250-acre shoe manufacturing park at a cost of Rs.400 crore is underway in Panapakkam in Ranipet District. Twenty thousand persons will get employment in this.

Currently, raw materials for this sector have to be imported from China. By establishing this park, it is possible that we can also manufacture the raw materials ourselves.

This project will fulfill our ambition to play a leading role in the global market.

We have signed MoUs for 5 projects for an investment of Rs. 2,250 crore and employment to 37,450 persons, depending on the sector.

Similarly, I request many companies to come towards Tamil Nadu.

I express my sincere gratitude to all the investors who entered into MoUs here. May your projects develop smoothly.

I would like to extend my best wishes to the Hon'ble Industries Minister, the Additional Chief Secretary and officials working tirelessly to provide business start-up services to those who want to invest in Tamil Nadu.

Footwear is an essential, basic need of people. Likewise, the footwear and leather industry is very important for the development of our state. I conclude my speech by giving the assurance that this Government will provide all possible assistance to make this industry even better.

Hon’ble Chief Minister lays foundation stone for 748 projects at a cost of Rs.662.50 crore

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** inaugurated the completed projects, laid foundation stone for new projects and handed over welfare assistance to the beneficiaries at Coimbatore District on 24.08.2022.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin**, inaugurated 228 completed projects at a cost of Rs.271.25 crore, laid foundation stone for 748 new projects at a cost of Rs.662.50 crore and distributed welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.589.24 crore to 1,07,410 beneficiaries at a Government function held at Eachanari in Coimbatore on 24.08.2022.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurated various completed schemes at a mega Government function. Improvement of infrastructure at the Government Medical College in Coimbatore at a cost of Rs. 100.03 crore, improvement of CEmONC Centre, installation of the state of the art treatment equipment centre at the Zonal Cancer Centre, De-addiction and Drug De-addiction centre, and installed RTPCR equipment at the Government District Headquarters Hospital, Pollachi.

In the Coimbatore Corporation, 18 development projects, including a multi-level parking lot, an additional building for the Primary Health Centre, Urban Welfare Centres, Children Play Park and Drinking Water Distribution Scheme, totalling Rs. 57.05 crore.

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Power Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited and Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited, new sub-stations and additional transformers at a cost of Rs. 24.33 crore.

33 development projects in town panchayat areas, totally costing Rs. 22.44 crore including a high-level bridge across Noyyal River, a bridge and the upgraded bus stand at Perumalkovilpatti, community welfare centre, tar roads, and overhead reservoirs;

Five completed schemes on behalf of the Public Works Department (Water Resources

System), including check dams on Achipatti Stream, Kothavadi Stream, Sulakkal River and Varattaru and renovated Parambikulam Aliyar Main Canal totally costing Rs.17.81 crore; on behalf of the Public Works Department (Building and Maintenance) 10 completed works, including veterinary dispensaries, computer, art and drawing rooms in Government schools, Revenue Divisional Office building and college students hostel building, totally costing Rs. 11.38 crore;

High-level bridge on the Ganapathi, Athipalayam Road at a cost of Rs. 2.59 crore on behalf of the Highways Department;

A new building for Pollachi Government Arts and Science College and additional classrooms, library and a seminar hall, in Valparai Government Arts and Science College, at a cost of Rs.11.48 crore;

On behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department 138 works including a new bus-stand, self- help group buildings, Anganwadi centre buildings, granary, construction of roads and Panchayat office buildings at a cost of Rs.20.73 crore;

On behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Sub-agricultural extension centre, new horticulture information and training building and revamped Kurichi Uzhavar Market, at a cost of Rs 2.73 crore;

Employees and Teachers Co-operative and Thrift Credit Society building at a cost of Rs. 33 lakh and four mobile fair price shops on behalf of the Department of Co-operative, Food and Consumer Protection;

Under the HR and CE Department and Vazhndhu Kattuvom Scheme, 3 works at a cost of Rs. 35 lakh.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated 228 completed projects, at a total cost of Rs.271.25 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister laid foundation stone for the following new projects.

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Power Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited, new sub-stations increasing the capacity of sub-stations, separation of 22 power lines, installation of voltage Distribution System and separation of double transformers, totally 9, worth Rs. 237.13 crore;

334 new projects, worth Rs. 134.08 crore, including solar power plant, additional classrooms, road works, rain- water drainage works, drinking water supply works, bore wells, park development works and solid waste management works in Coimbatore Corporation;

10 works, including strengthening work of Valparai Sholayar Dam, canal reconstruction works, foot bridge works, barrage construction works on behalf of the Water Resources Department at an estimate of Rs.121.62 crore;

On behalf of the Department of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-resident Tamils, reconstruction of 429 dilapidated houses at Aliyar and Kottur Sri Lankan Tamils Rehabilitation Colony at a cost of Rs.21.46 crore;

On behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, construction of a bridge, infrastructure in schools, water storage tanks, construction of roads, strengthening, reconstruction of water bodies and panchayat union office building. Totally 119 new projects, valued at Rs.74.96 crore;

5 new projects, including Knowledge Centre, Additional buildings for the Municipal Office Additional Building, Tar Road construction, at an estimated

cost of Rs.9.85 crore, on behalf of the Municipal Administration and Drinking Water Supply Department;

253 new project works, including development of Sulur weekly market, menial staff quarters, construction of road and drainage, park development and overhead water tank at a cost of Rs.23.08 crore, on behalf of the Commissionerate of Town Panchayats;

High-level bridge across Kaanthai River and widening and upgrading of Avinashi - Tiruppur - Palladam-Pollachi - Cochin (Via) Meenkarai road into a four-lane road, at a cost of Rs.22.43 crore by the Highways Department;

Rs. 8.65 crore, on behalf of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department for hostel buildings for students and classrooms and science laboratories in Adi Dravidar Welfare Schools;

On behalf of the Public Works Department (Buildings and Maintenance) and Public Works Department (Medical Works), Workshop and Laboratory at Government Vocational Training Institute, Building of Veterinary Dispensary, Statue of V.O.Chidambaranar, Additional Building at Singaravelar Home and Additional Accident and Emergency Ward at Government General Hospital, Pollachi;

On behalf of the Co-operative Department, modernization of the head office building of Thudiyalur Co-operative Agricultural Service Institute, at a cost of Rs.31 lakh;

Totally foundation stone were laid by the Hon'ble Chief Minister for 748 new projects, costing Rs. 662.50 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed welfare aid under various schemes

Education loan to the tune of Rs. 161.32 crore for 1,902 students in higher education, Employment in private sector for the Differently-abled and transgenders through the Equal Opportunity Centre, which is functioning as a special initiative of the District Administration and Individual Forest Rights titles to tribals;

MoU between colleges and Government schools for the benefit of students under "Naan Mudhalvan" scheme, free bicycles, worth Rs. 10.53 crore to students of higher education in Coimbatore District, loans to beneficiaries through women's scheme, loans to 5,411 beneficiaries to the tune of Rs. 25.93 crore through the co-operative sector, on behalf of the Health and Family Welfare Department, welfare assistance to the tune of Rs. 176.03 crore for 10,737 beneficiaries.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed Government welfare assistance to 1,07,410 beneficiaries worth Rs.589.24 crore on behalf of various Departments.

Earlier, the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the stalls set up on behalf of various Government Departments, at the Government function held at Eachanari in Coimbatore.

Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister at this function

"I would like to extend my warm greetings to all of you.

In the 15 months since the change of Government in Tamil Nadu, this is the fifth time that I am making a visit to Coimbatore District. This shows my love and affection for the District and the people here.

This meeting should rather be called a conference; such is the turn out of people out here.

This 'Coimbatore Conference' is a testimony to the respect and esteem the people of the District have for the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam regime. Seeing the joy in your faces, I can very well predict the results of future elections.

I had already visited the city on November 22 and distributed welfare assistances on behalf of the Government. I had already visited Coimbatore on November 22 last, where I inaugurated many completed schemes, laid foundation stones for new projects and distributed welfare assistances on behalf of the Government. Within a few months, Thiru. Senthilbalaji arranged for another programme. No matter how much you praise him, it is not enough.

On behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, especially on behalf of the people of Coimbatore, I would like to thank all the Government officials of this District, including the District Collector, for successfully organizing the function.

It is only fitting that such a grand celebration takes place in Coimbatore, because this is the most important industrial city of South India. It is not only a city with large industries, but also small, micro and medium industries. It is a District that provides livelihood for lakhs of workers and contributes substantially to the State's exports. The District has industries of all types. Spinning mills, power looms, castings, wet grinder products, motor pumps, spare parts manufacturing, jewellery, coir based industries, food processing industries. The list is endless.

Laying the foundation stone for new projects, inaugurating completed projects, and providing welfare assistance to the people are the major factors for organizing Government functions in different parts of the State. Accordingly, I held the foundation stone ceremony for 128 new project works, at an estimated cost of Rs.89.73 crore, at a function held on November 22 last in this Coimbatore District. I inaugurated 70 completed projects, estimated at a cost of Rs.587.91 crore and provided Government welfare assistance to 25,123 beneficiaries, worth Rs.646.61 crore.

Today, even more massive welfare assistance is about to be provided. Through this function, 1.07 lakh beneficiaries are to be provided Government welfare assistance, at an estimated cost of Rs.589 crore. Coimbatore District has achieved the greatest achievement of providing assistance to the most beneficiaries in the Government functions held so far.

Some people ask what we have done? To them I reply that this is the achievement.

Today, I laid the foundation stone for 748 new projects, valued at Rs.662.50 crore and inaugurated 228 completed projects, worth Rs.272 crore. The Government has provided welfare assistance to 1.32 lakh beneficiaries in the District within a year.

This Government is for the people and is doing many things and creating records since Government welfare assistances worth more than Rs.1,234 crore has been provided to 1.32 lakh beneficiaries in Coimbatore District in less than one year. We are not the ones to give benefits to some people and boast of it as achievement. I can proudly say that the D.M.K. Government is one that provides immeasurable assistance and benefits innumerable persons.

On this occasion, I am very happy to announce that we are going to start three new initiatives to make today's event a memorable one.

Education loans, worth Rs.161 crore, are to be disbursed to students;

MoUs are to be signed with 60 colleges and 200 Government schools under the "Naan Mudhalvan" programme;

The project of 'Equal Opportunity Centres' is to be launched to create private sector jobs for the differently-abled, transgenders and widows.

Similarly, the international airport expansion project has been planned and for that Rs. 1,810 crore has been earmarked. We are implementing many such development projects for the development of Coimbatore and to make it a world-class industrial city.

I am proud to list the achievements of this Government in Coimbatore District during the past one year.

Under the New Entrepreneur-cum-Enterprise Development Scheme, 85 beneficiaries have been given a subsidy of Rs.18.47 crore.

Through the "Mudhalvarin Mugavari" programme, welfare assistance worth Rs.31.82 lakh has been provided to 679 persons; through the 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam' scheme, 1.57 lakh people have benefited, under the Kalaignarin 'Varumun Kappom' Scheme, 19,590 beneficiaries have benefited; By waiver of gold loans by co-operative banks for 5 sovereigns and less, 47,567 people have benefited to the tune of Rs.199.53 crore; power connections to 24,839 houses, at a cost of Rs.10.85 crore and 294 industrial power connections, at a cost of Rs.13.92 crore have been provided.

200 units of free electricity to 4,264 handloom weavers, at a cost of Rs.95 lakh and 750 units of free power to 5,970 powerloom weavers, at a cost of Rs.28.26 crore.

Loans worth Rs.66.05 crore have been waived for 1,703 Women Self-Help Groups.

856.54 crore bank loan to 13,171 SHGs provided.

On 19.05.2022 I sat with industrialists and industrial associations in Coimbatore, and discussed with them for nearly 3 hours, heard their demands. Gradually solutions are being found with regard to them.

All these have been completed within a year. This conference is a continuation of the previous conference.

Rs.200 crore has been allocated for the improvement of damaged roads in the Coimbatore Corporation and the works will be carried out expeditiously.

The Central Jail will be relocated and a Classical Tamil Park will soon be set up at a cost of Rs. 200 crore in the Jail complex.

In order to solve the drinking water needs of the people of Coimbatore, I have requested the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala through a letter, to release water from Siruvani Dam. I insisted upon this over the phone also. To meet the drinking water needs of the people, sufficient water was immediately released by the Kerala Government.

A detailed plan is being prepared for the implementation of the Metro Rail project in Coimbatore.

In Coimbatore, like Chennai, the Coimbatore Urban Development Authority (CUDA) has been created to demarcate and approve housing and buildings.

Recently, Times of India published an article in which it mentioned very clearly that various works are being carried out in Coimbatore and that 'Coimbatore is becoming a great industrial city'.

In the Country itself, Tamil Nadu attracts more investment, creates more employment, encourages entrepreneurship, and is progressing in the past one year be it education, creation of jobs, economic growth and social welfare schemes.

Recently, I visited Delhi to meet the President of India and the Vice President of India. I could not go to Delhi to participate in their swearing ceremonies, as I was affected by Corona.

There the people I met asked about Tamil Nadu and its development. From their questions, I realized that there is a high opinion about Tamil Nadu among them. This was due to the foundation laid by Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna and the path laid by Muthamizharignar Kalaignar.

The path travelled by the Kazhagam was tough. But it has dedicated itself to make the life of Tamils joyful. I assure you that the Kazhagam will continue to work for the welfare of Tamils. Various State Governments are closely observing the progress and development programs of the Government of Tamil Nadu and are replicating them in their respective states.

But some people are not able to digest this. They are repeatedly saying that the D.M.K. Government has not fulfilled any of its poll promises, I shall ask them to go to the people, mingle with them and ask them. These people remain in their houses and come out just to give interviews. They do not know what the people think about the D.M.K. Government.

Millions of women travel in buses free of charge.

Thousands of people in rural areas have been treated by medical workers at their homes.

More than one lakh agriculturists and farmers have received free power connection.

Lakhs of college students have got a better life through 'Naan Mudhalvan' and 'Kalloori Kanavu' schemes.

State Government employees whose pay has been hiked on par with Union Government employees. All of them are thanking the State Government.

Normally I do not give importance to interviews given by some people, who are lamenting without knowing the reality. Thanthai Periyar said that he did not want to get a good name from those who had no self-respect and respect for the race. It is these people who are criticizing the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam regime today.

The D.M.K. Government is the one that gives light to the oppressed!

The D.M.K. Government is the one that embraces the oppressed and does good for them!

This Government is for the welfare of the backward, most backward and scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people. It is for communal amity and will not tolerate any attempt to destroy the unity between the majority and the minority communities.

The D.M.K. Government is the Government that can think of establishing an egalitarian society that makes everything possible to all!

The Respected Parliament Member, Thiru. Natarajan, during his speech here said that I am giving preference only to MLAs and not to the MP. I assured him that I treat all Constituencies, be it Assembly or Parliament, equally. His demand will certainly be taken care of. That is what this Government is doing. In this connection I have sent a letter to all the Legislators.

The D.M.K. Government is a Government that can function as a Government for all like a mother who loves all her children equally.

I am one who thinks that even those who did not vote for us must appreciate us.

By keeping this in my heart, I advise the Ministers and Legislators of the DMK to perform their duty. That is how they too are functioning. My Ministers and Legislators know that I am monitoring all Constituencies, like my Kolathur Constituency.

Before leaving for Coimbatore, I wrote a letter to all Legislators. You might have read in the newspapers and seen on television that I have extended the scheme of 'Chief Minister in Your Constituency' to 234 Constituencies.

Ahead of the Assembly Elections, I started the tour of 'Stalin in your Constituency'. I went to all the Assembly Constituencies. I received requests from them. I assured them that after coming to power, their demands would be verified and fulfilled within 100 days.

After assuming charge, I formed a separate Department, and within 100 days, I have fulfilled most of the demands. I don't want to deceive anyone by saying everything has been fulfilled. But most of them have been met. Now, we have extended the scheme to all the 234 Constituencies.

Each Legislator has the responsibility to come up with programs for his/her Constituency. Some of the needs may be long-standing demands of the people in the respective Constituencies, but they may not be able to be implemented through the existing schemes.

So, under this scheme, I have ordered to get the recommendations from the Assembly Members of those Constituencies regarding the necessary works that have not been completed for a long time in each Constituency and in collaboration with the officials concerned, including the District Collector, consider them and give approval for the same.

You can submit a list of ten important projects of each Assembly Constituency to the respective District Collectors. The most important projects that can be listed have been identified and are currently in implementation.

I have assured that the projects which cannot be implemented under the existing Government schemes will be implemented on priority basis. What are the projects?

Infrastructural facilities to improve drinking water and water resources; steps for marketing agricultural produce, linking bridges and roads, medical facilities, infrastructural facilities for new or existing educational institutions like schools, colleges, polytechnics, and ITIs,

facilities for developing industries, electric crematorium, modern libraries, Integrated bus stands and new tourist spots, Legislators can also recommend important social, economic and livelihood projects such as development of existing tourist attractions.

I have requested the Legislators to send this list to the District Collector within the next 15 days.

I say with pride that this pilot project is not available in any State in India.

The present Government is not for the DMK Legislators alone but for all parties, including alliance and Opposition parties. I don't mind whether the Opposition parties appreciate me or thank me. I work for the people and that is my responsibility. I am committed to the people. Some people criticise me without any basis. But I am least bothered about it.

Poet Kannadasan said: "Let those who praise do so, let those who strew unbecoming criticism continue; If my mind is made up on a question, I will go ahead; I will brook no interference from anyone, I will march ahead fearlessly".

I am satisfied with the appreciation of the people who are benefiting day by day from the schemes of our Government. The happiness on their faces makes me happy.

On my way to the meeting, thousands of people greeted me from both sides of the road. The joy in their faces made me more enthusiastic. Perarignar Anna said that he saw God in the smile of the poor. So, in your smile I see God, I see Perarignar Anna, I see Muthamizharignar Kalaignar.

Only those who think that these principles, theories, thoughts and ideas of D.M.K. should not be fulfilled, criticize the Government and me.

I don't care about personal criticism against me, because I was brought up on criticism!

In other words, I grew up with criticism!

I grew up in the face of opposition and oppression!

I only get more and more active when someone opposes me. At the same time, I will never allow this opposition to me to harm the development of Tamil Nadu and of the Tamil people. I am not against criticism. But I am not for blind criticism.

I accept well-meaning guidance. But I have no appetite for useless words!

In order to cover up the power struggle going on within their own party, they are criticizing the D.M.K. to hide their own incapability. I would like to emphatically state that they have no merit or worth to criticize the Government.

Because in the past one year, we have implemented a thousand projects. Even one-and-a-half years have not been completed. Within this period there have been so many schemes. If so many schemes are possible in one year, how many will be implemented in 5 years.

Our vision is to fulfil huge projects and make Tamil Nadu the premier State in India and the most prosperous State in the world! Finally I would like to say,

This is the Government for you! Make your demand. We will fulfil it faithfully!

Therefore, I ask you to always support this regime. Thank you very much for your love and affection."

Tiruppur Regional Conference - ‘Lending a shoulder to Industries’

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** launched the schemes of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department at Tiruppur District on 25.08.2022.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. M.K. Stalin honoured the Tiruppur Regional Conference - ‘Lending a shoulder to Industries’ – by inaugurating many projects to be implemented with Government financial assistance of Rs. 167.58 crore for the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), laying the foundation stone for many new schemes and distributing welfare measures to industrial entrepreneurs. The conference was held by the MSME Department.

MSM enterprises play an important role in job creation. At medium level investments, they provide livelihood opportunities to thousands of workers and contribute in a major way to socio-economic development and to total indigenous production.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is implementing constructive schemes for the development of such an important sector and the Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurated several schemes for the development of MSMEs.

Tamil Nadu Coir Business Development (TANCOIR)

About 4,500 enterprises in Tamil Nadu are engaged in the production of value-added goods from coconut husk and they do sales to the tune of about Rs.8,000 crore to make capital investments. On realizing there is enough scope and productiveness to improve this industry several fold, the Government of Tamil Nadu stated in its Budget for 2022-2023 that a ‘Tamil Nadu Coir Business Development Corporation’ would be set up at an allotment of Rs. 5 crore.

Accordingly, within 5 months of the announcement, the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated today at Coimbatore a new company, the 'Tamil Nadu Coir Business Development Corporation.' Its targets are creation of new coir federations, identification of new markets, establishing contacts with customers and taking coir business and marketing to global level, creation of research and development laboratories with modern facilities and bringing about a coalition between industry and education for identifying novelties in this field.

To implement many schemes through this Corporation, the Hon'ble Chief Minister presented orders for the creation of four new coir federations at an estimate of Rs.36.60 crore, with a Government contribution of Rs. 26.58 crore. Their details:

❖ Tiruppur District – Kundatam (scheme estimate – Rs. 13.95 crore; Government subsidy Rs.8.75 crore);

❖ Udumalpet (scheme estimate – Rs. 6.92 crore; subsidy Rs. 6.23 crore);

❖ Karur District – K. Paramathi (scheme estimate – Rs. 6.93 crore; subsidy Rs. 5 crore);

❖ Coimbatore District – Pollachi (scheme estimate – Rs. 8.80 crore; subsidy Rs. 6.60 crore).

Also, under the New Industrial Entrepreneur and Industrial Development scheme as also under capital subsidy, the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed subsidies to the tune of Rs. 8.78 crore to 6 entrepreneurs.

Tamil Nadu Credit Guarantee Scheme (TNCGS):

The Hon'ble Chief Minister launched a new scheme – the Tamil Nadu Credit Guarantee Scheme – to help MSMEs get credit facilities without any guarantee.

Under this scheme, the Government of Tamil Nadu, jointly with the Union Government's Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), will provide 90% guarantee to loans up to Rs. 40 lakh and 80% guarantee for loans from Rs. 40 lakh to Rs. 2 crore. The speciality of this scheme is reduction of time in clearing the loan application since the normal procedural hurdles are removed and the processes are carried out online.

Further, this scheme has been designed to benefit industrial entrepreneurs who intend to get loans from the Tamil Nadu Industrial Co-operative Bank Ltd. (TAICO).

It is also proposed under this scheme to evaluate credit score for MSMEs for getting loans not only through the CIBIL score but also by assessing their financial performance. This will be of great help to these enterprises to get loans from banks/financial institutions.

It is to be mentioned that Tamil Nadu is the first State in India to bring into action all the above mentioned procedures. The Government of Tamil Nadu has allotted Rs. 100 crore for this.

By way of launching this scheme, the Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed Rs.1.19 crore loan with loan guarantee to 5 beneficiaries belonging to the Tiruppur region. Besides these beneficiaries, more than 70 persons

across Tamil Nadu will get loans to the extent of Rs. 17 crore through this scheme today itself.

Tamil Nadu Trade Receivables Discounting System (TN TReDS):

A situation prevails wherein MSMEs receive payments for their sales and services very late. To find a solution for this, a software was created to bring, in the first phase, all statutory boards, all public sector undertakings, local bodies and apex co-operative organizations under TReDS platform and the Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated this software.

A speciality of this platform is that the TAICO bank, through the Auto debit system, will credit by auto debit to MSMEs, loans against their sale bills, on the 180th day if the concerned companies had not remitted the amount within 179 days.

This guarantee of Government of Tamil Nadu will help TN TReDS to increase the competition among banks for lending MSMEs at very low rates when the MSMEs that have given goods and services to PSUs start uploading the bills in this platform. This can reduce the MSMEs' need for working capital loan.

Memoranda of Understanding with TN TReDS platforms were signed in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister and he distributed to the first three entrepreneurs who had registered under this scheme, the discount loan amount.

FaMe TN (Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu):

M-TIPB (MSME –Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau) was functioning to help MSMEs in matters like getting loans at low rates without guarantee, improving infrastructure facilities, helping in exports, advertising, marketing, implementing modern technology, giving training in skill development to workers and in tax and audit works.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken an initiative - 'Lending a shoulder to industries' - to enable entrepreneurs to concentrate on their industries and to meet their needs. To implement the initiative, the M – TIPB set up will start functioning under the new name FaMe

TN (Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu) from today.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister released today the logo for 'FaMe TN' which in a way signifies an equitable integrated development – "all things for all people"- and FaMe TN's book "How to start an industry" both in Tamil and English.

MoUs signed in the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister:

An MoU between FaMe TN and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to provide guidance for getting new opportunities to MSMEs and small businessmen through internet business portals;

Between FaMe and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and World Resource Institute (WRI) for respectively getting guidance for MSMEs' growth in accordance with Economic Law and to ensure the growth is environment friendly.

All these schemes will be implemented by the Labour Commissionerate, functioning under the MSME Department.

Details of the new schemes for which the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation:

A new COSIMA private sector industrial estate on a 42.42 acre land at Solavampalayam Village, Coimbatore District at an estimate of Rs. 18.13 crore with a Government subsidy of Rs. 9.06 crore;

A multi-storey production complex with 4 floors and 100 factory units for the micro entrepreneurs manufacturing silver anklet, a display centre and a common facility centre at Ariyagoundampatti, Salem District at an estimate of Rs. 24.55 crore;

A hostel with 4 floors to accommodate 510 workers at Kurichi Industrial Estate, Coimbatore District at an estimate of Rs. 22 crore; - totally, foundation was laid for new schemes at a cost of Rs. 64.68 crore.

At this event, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open a common facility centre for micro entrepreneurs manufacturing knitwear, at Naranapuram, Tiruppur District at an estimate of Rs. 15.34 crore.

All these schemes will be implemented through SIDCO.

With such honours, Tiruppur, was conferred the Municipal Corporation status during the D.M.K. regime. Muthamizharignar Thalaivar Kalaignar, the then Chief Minister not only made an announcement in the Legislative Assembly but also came here in person and inaugurated the Corporation. I too attended the event as the Minister for Local Administration.

Earlier, the Hon'ble Chief Minister visited the display pavilions set up by the MSMEs in connection with the Tiruppur Regional Conference.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister made the following speech at this event

I extend my affectionate respects to all of you.

This excellent event, particularly the conference for the Micro, Small and Medium level enterprises (MSMEs) is taking place in Tiruppur City that made a mark during the Freedom Fight and in the history of the Dravidian Movement.

At that inaugural function itself, Chief Minister Kalaignar announced in deference to a forceful demand of the people of this region, politicians, elders and industrialists, that Tiruppur would be made a separate District. This is history. Tiruppur shines today with many excellences.

In this one year and three months after I assumed office as Chief Minister, I have come to Tiruppur for the 4th time now. I will come back again and again and there is no doubt about it.

This Tiruppur has become a holy city that provides livelihood to those who come here. You know the reason for it. Food, clothes and

a place to live are essential. Without the stamp of Tiruppur, cloth cannot be thought of. It is the headquarters of knitwear in India. The name Tiruppur immediately brings back to our memory knitwear. To that extent, there is a close connection between Tiruppur and people not only of Tamil Nadu but of other States also.

Tiruppur not only nurtures industrialists but also workers. As for Tiruppur, the saying – yesterday's wage earner is today's industrialist; today's wage earner is tomorrow's industrialist- is apt.

Most of the industrialists in Tiruppur now, started their career as workers and progressed in life. It makes us happy. I am proud of it.

❖ Knitwear production in Tiruppur is about Rs. 60,000 crore; more than 50% of it is exported to Foreign Countries.

❖ In Tiruppur District, 57,900 MSMEs are functioning with a work force of 8 lakh and most of them are women.

❖ Apart from knitwear, rice mills are functioning in Kangeyam and Dharapuram.

❖ In Vellakovil and Kangeyam areas, cooking oil.

❖ At Uthukuli, ghee.

❖ In Kangeyam, Dharapuram and Udumalpet regions, coir and coir-related goods.

❖ In Tiruppur, Avinashi and Palladam areas, card-board boxes, power-loom and automatic power loom.

❖ In Thirumuruganpoondi and Avinashi areas, granite statues and wet grinder.

❖ In Palladam and Udumalpet areas broiler chick farms and poultry feed production factories.

In various such industries, Tiruppur is in the forefront. In that way, this Tiruppur District is a centre for MSMEs.

As Chief Minister I wish other Districts also should become like this District. When MSMEs grow, small scale entrepreneurs evolve and lakhs of people get jobs through it; lakhs of families progress.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, without depending only on big industries, wants MSM industries to get strengthened. In creating more job opportunities, next to the agriculture sector, MSME sector plays an important role. This is the reason for giving special attention to it.

With the slogan 'lending a shoulder to industries', we are helping MSMEs in their important requirements. We are careful that

such industries should not get concentrated in Chennai or a particular big city.

The Government of Tamil Nadu feels that all Districts should develop equally and hence it conducts such investment conferences in southern and western Districts.

In the last 15 months, 221 Memoranda of Understanding were signed through the investment conferences conducted by the Government of Tamil Nadu and steps are being taken to attract through them investments to the extent of Rs. 2,20,727 crore for creating more than 3 lakh job opportunities.

This includes 49 MSMEs which have agreed to invest Rs. 1,300 crore. Among the companies that have signed MoUs, 19 have started production by employing 1,909 persons and investing Rs. 1,522 crore.

I am designing schemes after ascertaining the needs of industrial entrepreneurs and industrialists all over Tamil Nadu by visiting them and today's meeting is part of it.

❖ Today, I have inaugurated the Tamil Nadu loan guarantee scheme. Through this, MSMEs can get loans easily without asset mortgages. This scheme will be operated online. In the first phase, six banks will be brought in and I assure you that all banks will be attached by next year.

❖ A Tamil Nadu Trade Receivables Discounting System has been inaugurated today. This has been created to reduce your difficulties and the delay in the sale of your products. This will be useful in reducing your need for a working capital loan. The guarantee given by the Government will induce banks to give you loans at very low interest rates by competing among themselves.

❖ Online registration facility for property mortgage for MSMEs to get loan has been arranged. The law has been amended to register the loan obtained on property mortgage through online from the banks themselves without going to the sub-registrar office.

❖ Rs. 30 crore has been allotted for the startup companies dealing with SC/ST people. Selection of beneficiaries is going on. We consider this as a work to establish social justice in the industrial sector.

❖ An MoU has been signed between TAICO Bank and the Tamil Nadu Industrial

Investment Corporation for easy loan disbursement through banks.

❖ After this Government took over, more than Rs. 2,113 crore has been disbursed to 2092 institutions as loan through the Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation. Ninety-nine percent institutional beneficiaries of this are MSME companies; as for the loan amount, 86% has been disbursed to MSME companies.

❖ The Government is taking several steps to give sites at reduced prices to MSMEs. I think you all know well that the site valuation in industrial estates has been reduced.

❖ I have laid the foundation today for a new industrial estate at Solavampalayam Village, Coimbatore. It will come up in an area of 42.42 acres.

❖ New industrial estates are to be set up in 5 Districts through SIDCO on a total area of 81.85 acres of land.

❖ At the Ambattur and Guindy industrial estates in Chennai, two multi-storey industrial units are to be set up at an estimate of Rs. 150 crore.

For the upgrade of MSME companies and to increase competition among them, the Government has announced macro and micro federation schemes and is implementing them. Steps are taken to set up common facility centres for the macro federation scheme at a cost of Rs. 100 crore each, through SIDCO.

Steps are being taken to set up an innovative industrial centre at an estimate of Rs. 75 crore at Nandambakkam on a one lakh sq. ft. area with an intention that Tamil Nadu should be the one to take the best initiatives in connection with startups and innovative industries.

We have decided to set up several micro industries federations.

❖ I have inaugurated today the common facility centre, set up for the knitwear micro industry entrepreneurs at a cost of Rs. 15.34 crore at Naranapuram, Tiruppur District, for their use.

❖ I laid the foundation stone today for a multi storey four-floor manufacturing complex with 100 industrial units for the micro industry entrepreneurs engaged in the production of silver anklets, at an estimate of Rs. 24.55 crore at Ariyagoundampatti, Salem District, a display centre and a common facility centre.

❖ A Group for micro industries engaged in the production of turmeric powder at Erode;

❖ One for the producers of 'jamukkalam' at Bhavani in Erode District;

❖ Processing of cashewnut at Panruti, Cuddalore District;

❖ A gypsy beads Group for narikuravars at Kancheepuram;

❖ A Group for women weavers at Dhalavaipuram, Virudhunagar;

❖ One for Aluminium dye casting at Coimbatore;

❖ One for dolls at Madurai;

❖ One for the handicrafts produced out of a water plant at Thoothukudi.

Steps are being taken for setting up a common facility centre for these Groups.

Along with industrial development, we are at the task of getting the required workers and technologists for these industries.

The skill development and guidance scheme 'Naan Mudhalvan' is functioning well all over the State. The main purpose of the scheme is to improve the students of Tamil Nadu, not only in education but in intelligence, thought, talent and skills for leading a successful life.

In the present 4th industrial revolution era, we have to use new technologies. To get guidance for it, the Government of Tamil Nadu has joined with international institutions. In every District industrial centre, an export guidance centre will be set up shortly.

Realizing the need to re-brand M-TIPB that was functioning as the foundation for MSMEs to achieve economic development and to make them succeed in the global sphere, it has been re-branded today as FaMe-TN (Facilitating MSMEs of Tamil Nadu).

You know about the ONDC, the Open Network for Digital Commerce. By way of helping Tamil Nadu MSMEs to join the ONDC platform, FaMe-TN and the ONDC signed an MoU. I request the MSMEs to make use of it.

In July 2021, I inaugurated the single window internet portal 2.0. Till now, 10,555 applications have been received from MSMEs and 9,212 applications have been given approval. I wish to proudly point out that this works out to 87%.

Coir and coir-related industries in Coimbatore and Tiruppur areas flourish as an important industry for economic development. The Tamil Nadu Coir Business Development Company has been set up in Coimbatore to develop the coir industry through creation of coir groups all over the State; by this not only industrial entrepreneurs but also the coconut farmers will get benefited. I have declared open that office.

I think I should make an important announcement.

Household textile goods, branded as home textiles, valued more than Rs. 8,000 crore per annum are produced and 50% of it is exported. A demand has been made that production of such goods should be included in the category of Thrust Sector and capital subsidy should be given through the MSME Department. The request is accepted. I announce, it will be included in the thrust sector category and an investment subsidy will be given.

This will benefit thousands of companies and lakhs of workers will benefit. This Government is always ready to listen to constructive suggestions like this at any time and in any situation.

We are here only to create facilities for you; we have taken such responsibility only for that. You introduce new industries. Strengthen the existing ones. Give livelihood for countless workers. Through that, you improve the socio economic environment of your region.

All these will certainly improve the State and the Country as a whole. I take leave of you with that hope.

Hon'ble Chief Minister inspects water pumping station under Athikadavu-Avinashi Scheme

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inspected the water pumping station at Emmampoondi, Grey Nagar, Perundurai in Erode District, under the Athikadavu-Avinashi Scheme, on 26.08.2022.

The Athikadavu-Avinashi Scheme has been conceived to benefit the drought-affected areas of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode Districts. Once the project is executed, 1.50 tmc of excess water from Kalingarayan Dam on the Bhavani River will be pumped out to irrigate 24,468 acres of land in drought-hit areas of these three Districts by filling up 32 Public Works Department lakes, 47 Panchayat Union lakes and 971 tanks and ponds.

Administrative sanction for the project has been approved for Rs.1,652 crore which was enhanced to Rs.1,756.88 crore in the revised administrative sanction. Under the scheme, construction works are going on for a check dam across Bhavani River and six water pumping stations in Bhavani, Nallagoundampalayam, Thiruvachi, Polanaickenpalayam, Emmampoondi and Annur. The project is expected to be completed before December this year and after that trial run of the project has been planned.

After inspecting the project work, the Hon'ble Chief Minister directed the officials to complete the work expeditiously, without compromising the quality.

Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurates 135 completed projects in Erode District

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** handed over welfare assistance to the beneficiaries at Erode District on 26.08.2022.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin**, at a Government function at Perundurai in Erode District on 26.08.2022, inaugurated 135 completed projects, executed at a cost of Rs. 262 crore, laid the foundation stone for 1,761 new projects worth Rs. 184 crore and distributed welfare assistance to 63,858 beneficiaries to the tune of Rs. 167.51 crore.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurated various completed projects in the District at the function held in Erode.

Hundred works, all totally costing Rs. 19.46 crore, on behalf of the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, including an office building for Bhavani Panchayat, building for 3 Women Self-Help Group in Gobichettipalayam and Perundurai areas;

Sub-treasury building at Kodumudi, on behalf of Finance Department, at a cost of Rs.1.07 crore; Renovated weavers’ co-operative building with a retail outlet and showroom and a stock room, at Chennimalai and Senkumar Co-operative societies, on behalf of Handloom Department, at a cost of Rs.47 lakh; Sub-treasury office building, at a cost of Rs. 1.01 crore, at Punjai Puliampatti on behalf of the Commercial Taxes and Registration Department; on behalf of the Erode Corporation, a textile complex, new commercial complex, Green Building and Park, all constructed, at a cost of Rs. 99.55 crore; On behalf of the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, development of weekly market, bus stand, improvement of drinking water supply an urban welfare centre and combined water supply schemes, at a cost of Rs.113.99 crore; on behalf of the Department of Highways and Minor Ports, small bridges on the Perundalaiyur Mevani - Thalakkombudur Road, Anthiyur -Nambiyur Road, at Sundakkam Palayam and a high- level bridge across Bhavani River on the Puliampatti- Bhavanisagar- Bannari Road, totally costing Rs. 11.73 crore; Staff quarters with office for the Revenue Department officials at Erode East, Vaniputhur and Sivagiri, at

a cost of Rs.50 lakh, on behalf of the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management;

On behalf of the Department of School Education, a science laboratory, toilet, drinking water connection facility, compound wall and additional classrooms at the Government higher secondary school, Unjalur, physics, chemistry and biology laboratory building at the Government Girls higher secondary School, Kavundapadi, at a total cost of Rs. 1.73 crore;

On behalf of the Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department, Veterinary dispensary buildings at Pethampalayam, Kasbapettai and Semmampalayam, at a cost of Rs. 1.20 crore;

On behalf of the Health and Family Welfare Department, Rs.2.66 crore, construction of Primary Health Centre, Auxiliary Nurses Hostel and Rural Health Training Centre at Ongalwadi, at a cost of Rs.2.66 crore; on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare four sub-agricultural extension centres, at a cost of Rs.3.41 crore, Farmers' Market at Thalavadi, Regulatory Market at Anthiyur, 2 Storage Warehouses at Bargur; upgrading the transformer at the sub station at Uratchikottai, at a cost of Rs.4.70 crore on behalf of Tamil Nadu Power Generation and Distribution Corporation, and new transformer at Emmampoondi area;

On behalf of the Co-operative Department, a new ATM room at the Sivagiri branch premises of the Erode District Central Co-operative Bank, at a cost of Rs.9 lakh;

Totally 135 completed schemes, worth Rs. 262 crore were declared open by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Hon'ble Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for the following new projects:

On behalf of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, 1,748 works, including 420 houses for Sri Lankan Tamils in Bhavanisagar, at an estimate of Rs.103.44 crore; on behalf of the Department of School Education, 3 additional classrooms at Devarmala Upgraded Government High School and 2 additional classrooms at Kaikolapalayam Government High School at a cost of Rs.1.19 crore;

On behalf of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, at a cost of Rs.54 lakh, Siddha Division buildings to be constructed in Komarapalayam Government Anna Hospital and Chennimalai Primary Health Centre premises, additional building for Indian Siddha Medical Service, Yoga and Naturopathy in Elumathur Primary Health Centre premises;

A new bus stand in Solar area, at a cost of Rs.63.50 crore, on behalf of the Erode Corporation, an intellectual centre and shelter for relatives of in-patients, at a cost of Rs.3.31 crore on behalf of the Municipal Administration and Drinking Water Supply Department;

Commercial Taxes Department office building at Gobichettipalayam, at a cost of Rs.1.90 crore on behalf of Commercial Taxes and Registration Department; Cattle Multi-purpose Dispensary at Erode and Gobichettipalayam, at a cost of Rs.5.16 crore on behalf of Animal Husbandry Department; On behalf of the HR and CE Department, a devotees shelter at a cost of Rs.93 lakh at Arulmigu Subramaniyaswamy Temple in Chennimalai; Workshop and laboratory building, at a cost of Rs. 3.73 crore, at the Erode Government Vocational Training Centre, on behalf of Department of Labour Welfare and Skill Development;

The Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for 1,761 new schemes, to be executed at a total cost of Rs.184 crore.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister distributed various Government welfare schemes to the beneficiaries.

On behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, the beneficiaries were provided with coconut seedlings, paddy and pulse seeds, battery-operated power sprayers, direct rice sowing equipment; on behalf of the Animal Husbandry Department, goats and sheep; on behalf of the Fisheries Department, two-wheelers with ice-boxes; on behalf of the Department of Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, appointment orders on compassionate grounds, financial assistance under the Chief Minister's Girl Child Scheme; financial assistance under Prime Minister's Housing Scheme; under the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, natural death allowance, widow allowance, old age pension to the beneficiaries under the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, financial assistance to Women Self-Help Groups under the Women's Scheme, on behalf of the Differently-abled Department, petrol scooter, special battery operated wheel chair, sewing machine, hearing aid, smart phone; on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board; Flat allotment orders and on behalf of the TAHDCO, Entrepreneurship Scheme subsidy fund.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister provided Government welfare assistance worth Rs.167.51 crore to 63,858 beneficiaries.

Earlier, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu visited the exhibition set up by various Government Departments.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occassion

My warm regards to all of you.

I have come to Erode District as a part of a three-day tour to the western region. Erode is a town which has mingled with our lives, which all of you know.

Yesterday, I unveiled the statue of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar in Kallipatti.

Now I am participating at a Government function at Perundurai in Erode District. Perundurai is a historic town. According to a copper inscription a Tamil Sangam existed in Thingalur near Perundurai, when a Pandya King ruled the town. Kalavazhi Narpathu was sung by a poet to release the Chera King, who was in custody of the Chola king. This region with its forts, temples reminds us of elephant battles.

Our Hon'ble Minister Thiru. Muthusamy has organized this Government function on a grand scale. Thiru. Muthusamy served in the late Makkal Thilagam M.G.R's Cabinet. No one can function quietly like Thiru. Muthusamy. Some people's work is more demonstrative. But the work done by some is quiet, modest and unostentatious. Thiru. Muthusamy is of this type. The younger generation should learn from him.

Erode occupies the most important place in my life. A zonal conference was held at Erode. It was Hon'ble Minister Muthusamy who conducted the conference very well. Now the same efforts have been put in by the Minister for this Government function also. I am reminded of that conference now. I am very

happy to express my sincere gratitude to the Minister who is behind the conference, and also to the District Collector, and to all the officers and Government officials, who supported him.

Many new projects, by various Departments have been executed in Erode District in the past one year.

The bed strength in the Perundurai Government Hospital have been increased by 761. A long-pending (20 years) demand for converting the Chikkaiah Naicker College, Erode into a Government college has been fulfilled.

Steps have been taken to construct two bus stands in Erode Corporation and the work has started.

Road facilities are being provided in the hilly villages of Anthiyur and Bargur Panchayats.

Link roads are being constructed in Ammapettai and Vellith Tiruppur Panchayats.

The underground sewerage scheme for the Erode Corporation areas, which was abandoned by the previous regime has been revived. Similarly, the combined drinking water supply scheme, costing Rs. 1,600 crore was put in cold storage by the previous AIADMK regime. That scheme has also been revived.

For the Perundurai area, Kodiveri combined water supply scheme, worth Rs. 765 crore, proposed by the previous AIADMK regime was lying dormant. That scheme also we are implementing.

As a continuation of that, this grand conference is now taking place.

Foundation stone for 1,761 new projects have been laid today. Their total value is Rs.184 crore.

I have initiated 135 completed works, valued Rs.262 crore. 63,858 beneficiaries are to be given various Government welfare measures worth Rs. 167.51 crore. This conference, in fact, is a Mupperum Vizha.

For the development of hill dwellers and their children in Madam, Kalwarai, Bejalatti, Eppattampalaiyam and Devarmalai areas in Bargur Panchayat in Anthiyur Taluk in Erode District, under the NABARD-Mineral and Mines Scheme, smart study centre and tele-medicine facilities are provided through the Internet services.

Through Women Self-Help Groups and their families, a separate App has been developed by the District Administration to market the products produced by the farmers' producers centre and industrial group. The operation of this website has been launched today.

When I went to Pollachi, the farmers there made a request to me. When I asked the Agriculture Department about it, they informed me that permission has been given to the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Marketing Federation to purchase copra and that a target of 6,000 metric tonnes of copra has been set for the purchase of copra in four Districts namely Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Thanjavur and Dindigul.

When I arrived here yesterday, I asked the officials about the demands of the people of the District. Based on that, I would like to make a few announcements now.

The Erode Outer Ring Road has been constructed for 14 km from Kokkarayanpettai in Namakkal District to Erode-Perundurai-Kangeyam Road in Erode District. As a continuation of this road, a detailed project report will be prepared for the extension of the Erode-Thingalur Road to Ooty-Kotagiri-Mettupalayam-Sathy-Gobi-Erode Road at a cost of Rs.60 lakh.

Apart from that, the Government is taking various measures to increase the agricultural production in the State to increase the income of the farmers. At present, projects are being implemented in Erode District at a cost of Rs.16.82 crore, on behalf of Agriculture Marketing and Agribusiness Department.

A cold storage facility will be set up in Erode at Nallampatti, each costing Rs.2 crore.

A cold storage facility will also be set up at Thalawadi, at a cost of Rs 2.82 crore.

Turmeric Export Centre will be upgraded at a cost of Rs.10 crore for the benefit of the turmeric farmers;

Similarly, as per the demand of the people of Thalavadi, a 24-hour emergency care centre will be opened at the Government Primary Health Centre, at an estimated cost of Rs.25 lakh. I am also happy to inform you that a X-ray machine will be installed in that Primary Health Centre.

What I can assure you through this meeting is that we will take all steps to make Erode District, a premier District in all fields.

Before coming here, I visited the Athikadavu-Avinashi project works. Ministers, MPs, Legislators and Officials accompanied me. I have come here only after watching the project works. I have directed the officers concerned to execute those Government works immediately and speedily. I am confident that the project will be completed soon and I will personally inaugurate the project.

The day before yesterday, I attended a similar Government function in Coimbatore District. There also, I initiated various works and laid the foundation stone for various projects.

Such Government functions are not functions for entertainment, not functions to glorify us! It's a festival where we can tell people what we planned to do and what we are doing.

I am a person who wants to talk more about the work done by me rather than praising myself, whether it is a people's forum or on the floor of the Assembly. I don't need new

accolades, I'm of the view that the existing accolades are enough for me. "Stalin means hard work, hard work and hard work," said Muthamizharignar Kalaignar. That praise is enough for me. I don't need any other compliment. 'You look just like your father!' said Perarignar Anna. I don't need any other praise than this. These accolades enthuse me to work hard. I assure you that I will continue to work as long as I live. My goal is that everyone should have everything.

Development of all departments, all Districts, all people from all walks of life and social development. This is Dravidian Model of development. That type of Government is ruling the State.

Before beginning my three-day tour of the western Districts, two good news reached me. Paddy production in Tamil Nadu has reached a record high in 20 years. This is a historic achievement. This Government not only protects the people but the soil also. The achievement was due to action taken during the past one year. Paddy production, which was 1.04 crore metric tonnes last year, increased to 1.22 crore metric tonnes this year. That means 18 lakh metric tonnes more paddy has been produced. Similarly, the paddy coverage area has also increased. This is not a mean achievement. In history, as well as in the entire country, Tamil Nadu is the only state which presented a separate budget for agriculture. Traditional paddy seeds were distributed to farmers on 50 per cent subsidy.

Yesterday when I went to Gobichettipalayam, farmers showed me harvested paddy and said that this was possible because of the scheme announced by me. They all thanked me. What can be cause for more happiness than this?

Apart from that, in the Delta Districts, Samba and Kuruvai Cultivation package scheme was implemented. Water from Mettur Dam was released early for the cultivation of Kuruvai.

The canals were properly dug and de-silted so that the water reaches the tail-end areas. All these activities resulted in this achievement. Increase in paddy cultivation shows the fertility of Tamil Nadu. It is intended to further enrich the wealth of Tamil Nadu.

Another big achievement is as mentioned by Thiru. Ganesamurthy the Madras High Court has given legal recognition to the social justice idea that people belonging to all castes can become archakas.

It is our opinion that those who are appointed as priests in temples should have proper training for that. Caste should not be a criteria. Some people went to court and filed to cancel the ordinance. But the Madras High Court refused, categorically refused, to stay it.

If Thanthai Periyar and Muthamizharignar Kalaignar are alive today they would be immensely happy. This is a victory for our policy. Whether it is agricultural production, whether it is the fact that all castes can become priests, such success is possible because of our long-term vision and decision-making.

Therefore, this Government is appreciated by everyone. It is a Government that functions and the Dravidian model Government is guiding the entire country.

There are various programs such as free bus travel for women, Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam, and Illam Thedi Kalvi. Other State Governments are trying to replicate them in their states. Already, various states are following our social justice philosophy of reservation.

The philosophy of state autonomy is also a gift given by the Dravidian movement.

The development of Tamil Nadu in the last fifty years is the development achieved through the great projects conceived by

Muthamizharignar Kalaignar. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of students, joining higher education after high school and the majority of them are girl students.

The best educational institutions are in Tamil Nadu. The State's GDP is next only to Maharashtra. The progress of Backward, Most Backward, Scheduled Castes and Tribal is also higher in Tamil Nadu compared to other States. Social security for women is also high in Tamil Nadu. Women entrepreneurs are also higher in Tamil Nadu. It is here that the HR indices are high. Poverty is less here so also infant mortality. There are no starvation deaths here. These are all the developments of the Dravidian model of governance.

Growth is not the growth of a few entrepreneurs alone. It should be simultaneous and uniform covering all industries, all entrepreneurs, all Districts and all communities together.

This is the development that Thanthai Periyar, Arignar Anna and Muthamizharignar Dr.Kalaignar wanted to see. We are making such plans every day. I am always working for that. I am working not only as the Chief Minister but as one among you.

I consider working for you as my duty. I say it with an open heart. My ambition is to make the Tamil community prosperous and Tamil Nadu a prosperous and happy State.

I consider living in the hearts of people as a greater gift than living in the Fort.

With all of your support, I am walking towards my goal!

I will surely win with your support. I will win! I will win!

With these words, I take leave of you.

October 1: Birth anniversary of Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan

A saga of friendship with Nadigar Thilagam

Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan was younger to me in age. He has passed away. But I live to shed tears for his death. Many sagas of friendship have been written over the years. They all are of the past. But our own epic of friendship is much greater, higher and more emotional than all of them.

We were not just ordinary friends and worked together in the cine field. He was like a member of my family and I was like a member of his family. We lived as if we belonged to a single family. This is known to many people.

A great artist has passed away. My obituary does not end here. My condolence message is a tearful message, which tells of the long-standing relationship between the two of us from a young age; it has been severed by his death. His fame will last long and will not vanish over the years. That light will glow forever.

- Condolence Speech of Muthamizharignar Dr.Kalaignar on 23.07.2001, on the passing of Nadigar Thilagam Sivaji Ganesan

Hon’ble Chief Minister inaugurates ambitious Upskilling Platform for Tamil Nadu students

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin** inaugurated the Upskilling Platform under the “Naan Mudhalvan” Scheme.

The Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** inaugurated the Massive Upskilling Platform under the “Naan Mudhalvan” Scheme and also inaugurated a separate portal for the Upskilling Platform, at Kalaivanar Arangam, on 29.08.2022.

With a view to enable the students of schools and colleges and the youth of the State, to succeed not only in academic life but in real life, the Hon’ble Chief Minister launched a new Upskilling Platform programme, called the “Naan Mudhalvan” Scheme, on 01.03.2022.

The aim of the scheme is to identify the hidden talent of students of Government and Government- aided schools and give educational guidance to them on what to study, where to study and how to study, which will ultimately help them in getting better employment. The students are also trained to attain proficiency in the Tamil language. Through the scheme, spoken English course will be conducted so that students can face interviews confidently.

The separate portal as a part of the “Naan Mudhalvan” Upskilling Platform Scheme, inaugurated by the Hon’ble Chief Minister, will help the youth in the State improve their individual skills through developing technologies, free training, skill exercise at a low cost, skill training along with school syllabus, training for competitive examinations, English, German and Japanese language learning courses, training for facing entrance examinations for higher education and training for facing personal interviews.

Through this portal, college students and graduates can identify short-term training courses in the latest technologies and undergo international-level training for the selected courses and get certificates. Free as well as low cost books along with the syllabus can be downloaded from the portal.

To provide education on par with international standards, MoUs have been signed by the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation with 47 international and frontline companies.

Earlier, the Hon'ble Chief Minister declared open the exhibition on skill development set up by various organizations and witnessed the exhibition.

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the occassion

"I affectionately welcome you all to this function.

The "Naan Mudhalvan" Scheme of the Government of Tamil Nadu is to make the youth of the State stand tall in education, intelligence, efficiency and individual talent.

This scheme was launched with a view that not only I, but everyone should become Mudhalvan (stand first), each in his own way. This is my dream scheme. I am standing before you with the pride that the scheme has attained a phenomenal growth since its launch. Development in all fields, all-round growth, development in all Districts and growth at all levels of society is happening as per the Dravidian Model of Government. That was mentioned by all speakers here.

This Government is model for the entire country. Many industries are vying with each other to invest in Tamil Nadu. New Industries are competing with one another to come to Tamil Nadu and to make investments here to start their industries.

This will change the industrial situation in the State, and unemployment will not be an issue any more. In that case, it is bounden duty of the Government to create the skilled experts required by the industries. With this view in mind, the Government has launched this programme.

One of the basic objectives of the scheme is to groom youth to the requirement of industries and through that to enable the youth get jobs according to their skills.

With this basic objective, the "Naan Mudhalvan" Scheme was formulated to encourage the youth. "Naan Mudhalvan" Scheme was inaugurated on my birthday at Kalaivanar Arangam. Following this, the Youth Skilling event was held in Queen Mary's College. In the event, many qualified youths

selected the skills required by them and training in those particular skills was given to them.

The Industries explained the factors like what to study, where to study and what is the type of training one should undergo and what are the skills that the youth should develop. They also guided the students on the jobs that are easily available and on the expectations of the industries.

After completing class XII, students are rushing either towards medicine or engineering. There are other fields where jobs are available in plenty. If they know this fact, then there will be no rush for medicine and engineering. Students as well as parents should know about the job availability in other fields.

Parents can suggest their wishes to their wards and guide them. But they should not impose their wishes on them. Students who join certain courses to satisfy their parents, later grow depressed and are unable to concentrate on their studies. Parents should know the interest of their wards and involve them in their field of interest. It is for this that the college dream event was organized by the Government.

Under the "Naan Mudhalvan" Scheme, the Government of Tamil Nadu organized a function, known as 'Kalloori Kanavu' on 25.06.2022. The event was inaugurated by me at the Nehru Indoor Stadium in which experts from various fields participated and explained the speciality of their disciplines. Thousands of class XII students participated. After participating in the function, the students came out with a clear idea about the field they should choose for further studies. I am proud to say that this was the success of the event.

I frequently tell students from the State that they are in no way inferior to others. I am repeating the same thing here also. Our students have abundant talent. But they lack proper guidance. They need the necessary guidance and proper push. If these two are given to them, their talent will improve still further. Through that employment opportunities and the country's economic development will improve. Having realized this, I inaugurated the "Naan Mudhalvan" Scheme.

- The portal inaugurated today by me will meet this objective. By using this portal, students will get clear information.
- The psychometric tests in the portal will identify the psychological character of the student and his individual talent and suggest proper training.
- If the College students find courses based on modern technologies, they can study those courses along with their regular courses. This will enable

them to have a clear idea about the job opportunities.

- This portal enables students to select their courses of study and get training,

Students of engineering colleges and Arts and Science Colleges, can study additional courses such as Robotics, Virtual Reality, Oracle, Machine Learning, Cloud Computing and Artificial Intelligence, Cyber security and Internet of Things, without any fee or at a considerably lower cost.

New courses have come in plenty. You should come forward to study them. New industries are coming up. You should know the type of skilled persons these new industries require and try to qualify appropriately.

Even during college days, students should improve their individual talents. Many diploma courses are conducted through the net. The students should get qualified in those courses before completing their academic studies so that when they come out of their college, jobs will definitely await them.

Till now, students have to spend more years after their graduation to get additional qualification. But under the scheme, the students can get additional qualifications even during their college studies.

The portal also provides short-term courses assuring job opportunities. The portal has been designed to guide students in selecting the courses. Additional information is also given periodically.

Our students should have proficiency both in Tamil and English. Tamil is their mother language and English links us internationally. The students should have speaking and writing skills in these two languages.

The major issue for the students after completing their degree is knowledge of English. Good command over the English language is necessary to face personal interviews and in the work environment. Inferiority complex develops automatically if a student lacks fluency in English. Due to this complex, students avoid going to international companies. To develop communication skills among students, in the first semester of Arts and Science Colleges, the subject of English Communication has been introduced in all colleges with the help of skill development institutions.

Not only English, training will be given also in the German and Japanese languages. Due to this, in subsequent years, it becomes easy to learn English medium subjects and also gives confidence to students.

I would also like to advise students to read Tamil and English dailies and magazines. Make newspaper- reading a habit and write down your thoughts frequently. Expressing your thoughts is really a talent. This helps your self-assessment.

Training is also given in the portal for preparing for competitive examinations. There is a special training programme to improve the management and entrepreneurship skills of Tamil Nadu Youth. For this we have signed agreements with more than 50 companies, including I.I.T, N.P.T.E.L, Oracle, Cambridge, Infosys, Cisco, Microsoft, Coursera, T.C.S, Autodesk and Mathworks.

This portal ensures that students get training of international standard to get international job opportunities. You all know that Tamil Nadu shines as the best State in higher education. Of the 100 best higher education institutions, 18 are in Tamil Nadu. Of the best 100 universities in the country, 21 are in the State. Of the 100

best colleges in the Country, 32 colleges in Tamil Nadu and of the 100 best research institutions, 10 are in Tamil Nadu.

Of the 200 best engineering colleges, 35 colleges are in Tamil Nadu. The 11 best management institutes are in the State. Of the 100 best medical colleges, 8 are in Tamil Nadu. Nine out of 40 best Dental Colleges, 2 out of 30 law colleges and 6 out of 30 architecture colleges are in Tamil Nadu. We can go on adding the list.

My ambition is that in a similar manner, the youth of Tamil Nadu should figure in the list of the most talented youth globally. Our youth should occupy the top posts not only in companies in Tamil Nadu but in the country and at the international level.

Jobs for all is not my only target. Jobs that match qualifications is my ambition. The youth of Tamil Nadu have the full capacity for us to achieve that target. I have unshakeable confidence in you. You must also face the world with such confidence. We will all work to make the youth talent of Tamil Nadu into the big force.

We will achieve that target.

October 30: Birth anniversary of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar

‘We should serve society like Thevar Perumaganar’

We are celebrating the centenary of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar who still lives with us despite his passing. Many people here said that Kalaignar was responsible for constructing the Mandapam here and for the installation of Thevar’s statue in Madurai. I don’t want to gain publicity for such actions. Erecting the statue alone is not enough. I would like to inform you here we should serve society like him and follow the path shown by Thevar; then only there will be some meaning for the statues and for the mandapam that we have erected for him.

Speech of the Hon’ble President of India Thiru. V.V.Giri, while unveiling the statue of Pasumpon Thevar in Madurai, is still ringing in my ears. Thevar Thirumaganar played a crucial role in the freedom movement. He lived for a short period of only 55 years. It is not an exaggeration to say that during those 55 years, Thevar achieved things which can be done only in a 100 years. Though he is not with us physically now, he still lives through his principles. We should all work continuously to realize his dreams. This should be the vow that we should take on this day.

- Speech of Muthamizharignar Kalaignar at the Centenary Celebrations of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, held at Pasumpon on 30.10.2007

Hon'ble Chief Minister takes part in Happy Streets event, advises people to be brisk and to exercise

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M. K. Stalin** at the "Happy Streets" event jointly conducted by the Greater Chennai Corporation, Police Department and the Times of India newspaper on 21.08.2022.

I extend my affectionate greetings to all of you.

The event "Happy Streets" has been jointly conducted for the last 3 months continuously, by the Greater Chennai Corporation, Police Department and the Times of India daily. Last week I had agreed to come to this event but could not do so due to a sudden attack of Corona. But I recovered in two or three days. The speedy recovery was due to the way I had maintained my body. I am now 69, nearly 70 but you would not believe it. To be more frank, if my son and I visit some place together, the question asked is whether we are siblings. I am not saying this out of pride. This has happened several times. While in foreign countries, this has occurred many times. I mention this to inform you that I take care of my health whenever I get time for it.

Kavignar Vairamuthu used to recite a beautiful poem often - 'Sit to eat when you are hungry and get up with hunger; this should be your life style'. One should not eat to a full stomach; neither should one abstain from eating. Physical exercise is a must, whatever one eats. In the morning I do exercise in the gym for an hour. The next day I do yoga. In the evening I walk 5 kilometres. I am not able to stick to this routine every day. You know what responsibilities I carry. The situation is such that I have to attend many events and travel to many

towns, Districts and countries. Even in those places, if there is a chance I will do exercise to the extent possible. Doctors said that the Corona infection had not caused any great damage to my health as I had the regular habit of exercise. So, if we maintain our health we can easily get over any disease, anxiety or tension. Hence, with such a good intention, the greater Chennai Corporation, Police Department and the Times of India have jointly conducted this event in an excellent manner.

The event was beyond my expectations. I thought there would be a music event and people would be riding cycles. But, along with the participants in the exercise, their parents also have turned up with great enthusiasm. Arrangements have been made for many types of activity and games like rural art events, mayilattam, shuttlecock, basketball, table tennis and cycling. “Happy Streets” events like this, should be conducted in all parts of the city. This will protect the environment, health and mental well being. I feel happy and proud to see such events and I thank the organizers for it.

Such events should not be wound up with today. Whenever you get an opportunity – I will not say every day; if it is done it is good; but some persons will not get that opportunity; many will be in office attending to work – you must compulsorily make use of this, at least two or three days in a week. This is my friendly request. I am happy to participate in your event. I will come to this event many more times to participate with you, to energize you, more so to energize myself. Thanking the organizers of this event, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

News in Pictures

Distribution of Film and Television Awards

The Hon'ble Ministers presented the awards to Film and Television artistes and to the students of Tamil Nadu Government M.G.R. Film and Television Training Institute, on 04.09.2022.

Three dimensional light and sound show on the heroic part played by Tamil Nadu in the freedom struggle

By way of adoring and honouring the national leaders who fought for India's freedom, a three dimensional light and sound show - 'Viduthalai poril veera Thamizhagam' - set up by the Department of Information and Public Relations at Kalaivanar Arangam, Chennai in connection with the completion of 75 years of Independence, was declared open by Hon'ble Ministers on 15.08.2022.

This light and sound show was arranged to familiarize the younger generation about the freedom struggle that took place in Tamil Nadu for 200 years, the oppression of the British and the greatness of Independence. The heroic acts and sacrifices of great leaders who fought for India's Independence and the historic events connected with them have been displayed in the show through models.

The first freedom struggle took place in the South, particularly in the heroic land of our Tamil Nadu. The soldiers' mutiny in Vellore Fort is considered to be the first freedom struggle in India.

The battle waged by brave warriors like Poolithevan, Ondiveeran, Veeran Azhagu Muthukone, Veerapandiya Kattabomman, Veeramangai Velunachiyar, Kuyili, Marudhu Brothers and Dheeran Chinnamalai and the sacrifices of countless leaders like 'Kappalottiya Thamizhar' V.O. Chidambaranar, Subramaniya Siva, Mahakavi Bharathiyar, Thanthai Periyar, Moodharignar Rajaji, Thiruppur Kumaran, Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, 'Kanniya Thendral' Quaid-E-Millath, J.C. Kumarappa, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar and Cuddalore Anjalai Ammal were displayed in the show.

The three final struggles that sowed the seed for India's Independence – Non-Cooperation Movement, the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement – also find a place in the show.

The show was extended from 25.08.2022 to 01.09.2022 to enable members of the general public and students to see it.

The show was displayed from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and admissions were free. The public, youths, as well as school and college students were greatly benefited by this light and sound show.

The State Minorities Commission Chairman Thiru. S. Peter Alphonse visited the 3-D light and sound show "Vidudhalai Poril Veera Thamizhagam". He then told that, "Today, I had the opportunity to see the exhibition hall of the Tamil Nadu Government's Information and Public Relations Department, which was very well organized to highlight the role of Tamil Nadu's freedom struggle in view of the Amudha Peruvizha of Indian Independence. Tamil Nadu's role and work in the freedom struggle were immense. Fifty years before history marked the first freedom struggle, the first 'Sepoy Mutiny' in 1857, and the fire of Independence burning in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu's small land kings with the proudest, traditional and heroic legacies, as well as Freedom Fighters and Martyrs, have made innumerable sacrifices and contributed a great deal to the freedom movement. However, while writing the history of the freedom struggle on an all-India scale, the history of the freedom fighters of Tamil Nadu has not been properly marked and not properly revealed. By recognizing his responsibility to show appreciation to the freedom fighters and to develop the feeling of freedom and nationalism, our Hon'ble Chief Minister organized this wonderful event in a very effective manner.

Starting from our Veerapandiya Kattabomman, Poolithevan, Chinna Marudhu, Periya Marudhu, and Velunachiyar and then going on to the histories of freedom fighters of the 20th century like Perunthalaivar Kamarajar, Thanthai Periyar, Rajaji, Muthuramalinga Thevar, Kakkanji who are known for their immense sacrifices and then about the women fighters such as Anjalai Ammal, Kuyili, Velunachiyar and then those belonging to the minority communities such as Quaid-E-Millath, J.C. Kumarappa and those from the Scheduled Castes who were neglected like Sundaralingam and those like Ondiveeran, here the wonderful freedom fighters who make all sections of Tamil Nadu proud, regardless of their social background, have been recorded. By watching this, the younger generation will get a chance to realise the heroic history of our freedom struggle. I appreciate and thank the Government of Tamil Nadu's Information and Public Relations Department for organizing this wonderful event."

Ambitious programme to raise Tamil Nadu forest cover to 33 per cent in 10 years

Tamil Nadu's total area is 1,30,068 sq. km. Of this forests occupy 31,194 sq.kms, that is 23.8 per cent. Our future generations will get the required oxygen only if the forest area is raised to 33%. For this, the Forest Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu has launched a special programme – Green Tamil Nadu Mission – and is taking steps to raise the forest area to 33% in the next 10 years (2030-2031).

As per the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K. Stalin's** directives, the Forest Department, in the first phase in the current year, is raising 2.80 crore tree saplings in 360 nurseries in 37 Districts to increase Tamil Nadu's forest area to 33%.

In the 4 Districts of Chennai Zone, 9,88,950 tree saplings are being grown in 28 nurseries. Of these, 1,47,600 tree saplings are being raised through 5 nurseries in Chennai forest division, 2,36,100 tree saplings through 13 nurseries in Chengalpattu and Kancheepuram division and 6,05,250 saplings through 10 nurseries in Tiruvallur forest division.

It is proposed to start tree sapling raising works in March 2022 and start planting works in September. The 2.80 crore tree saplings being raised in 360 nurseries all over the state will be planted in places owned by the Forest Department, highways, vacant lands of temples, school and college complexes, vacant places of panchayats and in the private sector lands. The Sangam literature mentions 5 types of land- Kurinji, Mullai, Marudham, Neidhal and Paalai. It is proposed to raise and distribute tree saplings that are suitable to the soil of these types of lands. The

distribution will be according to soil fertility suitable for trees.

To implement this scheme, it is proposed to seek, along with the participation of Government Departments, the co-ordination of all sections of people like industrial entrepreneurs (to raise more trees in industrial complexes), volunteers, women self help groups, farmers, school and college students (boys and girls) and vehicle and auto drivers.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated this massive people's Movement of Green Tamil Nadu Mission at a place belonging to the Forest Department near the Vandalur Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chengalpattu District on 24.09.2022. During this event, 500 tree saplings were planted by school students simultaneously at one place. This will facilitate parking of vehicles coming to the Vandalur Arignar Anna Zoological Park under the natural shade of trees – Green Cover Vehicle Parking Lot.

Under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, it is proposed to raise and plant 32 crore tree saplings every year by the Forest Department with the participation of the private sector. To monitor the growth of trees, state and District committees have been formed. For the Mission, a separate portal has been created – www.greentamilnadumission.com - for monitoring nursery/rearing of trees.

In the past, Kodiakarai alone got the international recognition of Ramsar site. Now, due to the Forest Department's excellent work, 13 protected sites in the Wetland Development Scheme have got recognition as Ramsar Sites. This has increased Ramsar Sites in Tamil Nadu to 14, giving a premier place to the state among the 75 such sites in India.

Elephant sanctuary at Agasthiyar Malai, Tirunelveli District, Kazhuveli Bird sanctuary in Villupuram District and Tiruppur Nanjarayan Bird sanctuary were announced in the last one year for the protection of forests, wildlife and birds, and improvement works are being carried out on them.

The Rs. 4 lakh solatium given for human deaths due to wild animal attacks, has been raised by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to Rs. 5 lakh.

For best maintenance, the Vandalur Arignar Anna Zoological Park has been given the first place in India.

BENEFITS OF GREEN TAMIL NADU MISSION

It has been planned to plant 260 crore tree saplings in 12,000 sq.kms - crop lands, fallow lands, panchayat tanks, barren forest areas and urban and town panchayat areas – and increase the forest and tree covered areas from 23.69% to 33% in 10 years.

So far, 73 lakh quality tree seedlings have been produced in this Mission and handed over to the Agriculture Department. More over 2.80 crore tree seedlings are being raised in 360 forest and private sector nurseries in 38 Districts.

As per the Paris Agreement, India has committed to reduce carbon dioxide emission from 25 billion tonnes to 3 billion tonnes by limiting carbon intensity and Tamil Nadu, on its part, could lower carbon emissions from by 25 to 30 million tonnes.

To convert this Mission into a people's movement, farmers, panchayats, Gram Sabhas, women self help groups and private and public sector organizations will be vigorously involved. A separate internet portal has been created for the Green Tamil Nadu Mission for monitoring the seedling needs and the nursery properly.

State and District level Green committees have been set up to regulate transplantation and tree-felling.

By planting trees, ways and means are created for farmers, panchayats and scheduled tribes to earn additional income through trees and minor forest produce.

The Mission is like an umbrella, bringing under it, a common platform for the tree planting works. In this Mission, tree planting will take place in agricultural lands, coastal shores, Government lands, lands belonging to individuals, fallow lands, barren forests, Government bunds of tanks etc.

With distance sensors and artificial intelligence, urban, suburban and forest like areas will be identified to turn unused lands into alternative forests.

In this Mission, planning, fixing targets and implementation will commence from the base level. Selection of nurseries and evaluation of planting will be undertaken on a scientific basis because they will no longer be on the earlier 'average based' norm but according to the agricultural weather condition.

This is a social scheme; a people's scheme. To monitor all activities, from getting nursery to planting, digital documents and an exclusive internet App will be used. This App will contain all information – from details of the beneficiary to lands selected for planting and nursery details.

In this Mission, the District green committee will be all powerful. All important decisions and fund exchange among Districts will be made only by the District committee. Voluntary organizations, charitable trusts and other organizations are a part of this scheme. This will help reach the people and ensure social participation.

In the Green Tamil Nadu Mission, Geographical Indications (GI) will be properly registered. This will be used for constant monitoring and for follow ups.

For farmers to get fair prices for the trees raised in their land, linkage with timber markets will be made.

For the years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, Rs.38.80 crore has been given to Green Tamil Nadu Mission.

- Forest Department

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** paid floral tribute to a portrait of Thanthai Periyar kept near his statue on the occasion of his 144th birth anniversary at Anna Salai, Chennai on 17.09.2022.

Tamilarasu

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The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. M.K.Stalin** and the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi **Thiru. Arvind Kejriwal** who participated as the Special Guest, distributed Bank Debit Cards to the students, at the launch of the Pudhumai Penn scheme for girl students at the Bharathi Women's College Chennai on 05.09.2022,

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